

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, November 4, 2011

The Other 99 Percent



U.S. hits new record: poorest of poor now 1 in 15 Americans

A man who did not wish to be identified, who lost his job two months ago after being hurt on the job, works to collect money for his family on a Miami street corner. The ranks of America's poor have climbed to a record high, according to new census data that paints a stark portrait of the nation's haves and have-nots at a time when unemployment remains persistently high. (AP Photo/J Pat Carter, File)

**HOPE YEN
LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ranks of America's poorest poor have climbed to a record high — 1 in 15 people — spread widely across metropolitan areas as the housing bust pushed many inner-city poor into suburbs and other outlying places and shriveled jobs and income.

New census data paint a stark portrait of the nation's

haves and have-nots at a time when unemployment remains persistently high. It comes a week before the government plans to release first-ever economic data that will show more Hispanics, elderly and working-age poor have fallen into poverty.

In all, the numbers underscore the breadth and scope by which the downturn has reached further into mainstream America. "There now really is no unaf-

fected group, except maybe the very top income earners," said Robert Moffitt, a professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University.

"Recessions are supposed to be temporary, and when it's over, everything returns to where it was before. But the worry now is that the downturn — which will end eventually — will have long-lasting effects on families who lose jobs, become worse off and can't recov-

er."

Traditional inner-city black ghettos are thinning out and changing, drawing in impoverished Hispanics who have low-wage jobs or are unemployed.

Neighborhoods with poverty rates of at least 40 percent are stretching over broader areas, increasing in suburbs at twice the rate of cities.

Once-booming Sun Belt metro areas are now seeing some of the biggest jumps

in concentrated poverty. Signs of a growing divide between rich and poor can be seen in places such as the upscale Miami suburb of Miami Shores, where nannies gather with their charges at a playground nestled between the township's sprawling golf course and soccer fields.

The locale is a far cry from where many of the nannies live.

Continued on Next Page

Occupy Wall St. protesters disavow Oakland violence

JASON DEAREN

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California

(AP) — A protest that shut down the Port of Oakland to show the broadening reach of the Occupy Wall Street movement ended in violence when police in riot gear arrested dozens of protesters who broke into a vacant building, shattered downtown windows and set blazes along the way.

Occupy Wall Street supporters who staged rallies that shut down the fifth-busiest U.S. port on Thursday condemned the demonstrators who clashed with police in the latest flare-up of violence. Riot police arrested more than 80 protesters downtown, where

Boston camp said the riots didn't represent the broader movement and likely wouldn't have a lasting affect on it, either. The movement is still evolving and mistakes are inevitable, he said. It "has to be nonviolent, or else it will just end. We won't get the support," he said. "It doesn't mean you can't agitate people. But you can't also be breaking windows and burning."

The protest outside the Port of Oakland, which reopened Thursday, represented an escalation in tactics as a movement that had largely been about marches, rallies and tent camps targeted a major symbol of the nation's commerce. The violence that

interests of the corporations," said Denver protester Dwayne Hudson, standing next to a grill with logs burning over charcoal to stay warm after a snowstorm. Nicholson blamed the violence on a small group of young people just there for violence — "Some kids looking to blow off some steam."

The far-flung movement challenging the world's economic systems and distribution of wealth has gained momentum in recent weeks, capturing the world's attention as they set up tent camps from New York's Wall Street to Los Angeles' Skid Row and outside St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Oakland became a rallying



Occupy Oakland protesters pass a burning garbage heap during a confrontation with police on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011, in Oakland, Calif. Following a mainly peaceful day-long protest by thousands of anti-Wall Street demonstrators, several hundred rallied through the night with some painting graffiti, breaking windows and setting fires.

(AP Photo/Noah Berger)

bands of demonstrators threw chunks of concrete and metal pipes and lit roman candles and fire-bombs, police said.

Five protesters and several officers were injured. "I think it will allow detractors to criticize the movement," said protester Hale Nicholson. He has been staying at the Occupy Oakland encampment and said he and most people there were pacifists. Bob Norkus at the Occupy

followed, however, raised questions about the direction of the movement and whether the clashes, so far mostly isolated in a city with a history of tensions between residents and police, will galvanize protesters or hurt their cause. Some protesters said violence can bring attention to the cause.

"This thing has to escalate so people see the violence and who is protecting the

point last week after an Iraq War veteran was injured when protesters and riot police battled in the streets. Organizers called for a general strike on Wednesday, and supporters in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and elsewhere staged smaller-scale demonstrations, some in solidarity with their Oakland counterparts. Oakland protesters viewed the strike and port shutdown as a significant victory. □



Miguel Lopez hauls a load of plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling in Los Angeles. Lopez earned 68 dollars for the load. The ranks of America's poor have climbed to a record high, according to new census data that paints a stark portrait of the nation's haves and have-nots at a time when unemployment remains persistently high.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

U.S. hits new record: poorest of poor now 1 in 15 Americans

Continued on Next Page

One is Mariana Gripaldi, 36, an Argentine who came to the U.S. about 10 years ago to escape her own country's economic crisis. She and her husband rent a two-bedroom apartment near Biscayne Bay in a middle-class neighborhood at the north end of Miami Beach, far from the chic hotels and stores. But Gripaldi said in the past two years, the neighborhood has seen an increase in crime.

"The police come sometimes once or twice a night," she said in Spanish. "We are looking for a new place, but it's so expensive. My husband went to look at a place (to rent), and it was \$1,500 for a two-bedroom, one bath. I don't like the changes, but I don't know if we can move." About 20.5 million Americans, or 6.7 percent of the U.S. population, make up the poorest poor, defined as those at 50 percent or less of the official poverty level. Those living in deep poverty represent nearly half of the 46.2 million people scraping by below the poverty line.

In 2010, the poorest poor meant an income of \$5,570 or less for an individual and \$11,157 for a family of four. That 6.7 percent share is the highest in the 35 years that the Census Bureau has maintained such records, surpassing previous highs in 2009 and 1993 of just over 6 percent. Concentrated

poverty also spread wider. After declining during the 1990s economic boom, the proportion of poor people in large metropolitan areas who lived in high-poverty neighborhoods jumped from 11.2 percent in 2000 to 15.1 percent last year, according to a Brookings Institution analysis released Thursday. Such geographically concentrated poverty in the U.S. is now at the highest level since 1990, following a decade of high unemployment and rising energy costs. As a whole, the number of poor in the suburbs who lived in high-poverty neighborhoods rose by 41 percent since 2000, more than double the growth of such city neighborhoods. Elizabeth Kneebone, a senior research associate at Brookings, described a demographic shift in people living in high-poverty neighborhoods, which have less access to good schools, hospitals and government services.

As concentrated poverty spreads to new areas, including suburbs, the residents are now more likely to be white, native-born and high school or college graduates, not the conventional image of high-school dropouts or single mothers in inner-city ghettos. The more recent broader migration of the U.S. population, including working- and middle-class blacks, to the South and to suburbs helps explain some of the shifts in poverty. □

Bachmann to protesters: Stop blaming free market

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Casting the Wall Street protesters as misguided, Republican presidential contender Michele Bachmann on Thursday said their frustrations should instead be directed at Washington politicians who protect their allies and put unfriendly companies out of business. Bachmann said politicians have far too much power and unfairly pick winners and losers. The Minnesota congresswoman, trying to recapture her once surging poll numbers, said she has watched lawmakers enact laws that intentionally shut businesses down. "For your sake and for your future, America — and Occupy Wall Street in particular — needs to wake up and stop blaming the free market, stop blaming capitalism, stop blaming job creators for the failures created by selfish politicians," Bachmann told students at Iowa State University. "The



Republican presidential candidate, Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., makes an economic policy address, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011, at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neiburgall)

problem is politicians who wink at their political donors and through the force of law put their competitors out of business." Bachmann used her appearance in

Ames to outline an economic proposal that would require all Americans to pay taxes. The Tax Policy Center estimates that some 46 percent of households

this year will not pay federal income taxes.

"They need to be invested in the country," she said. "Even if they can only afford \$10, they need to pay something."

Her position was a direct challenge to rivals Rick Perry and Herman Cain, who are

advocating separate flat tax plans. Cain is also promoting for a national sales tax as part of his 9-9-9 plan. Bachmann said she would not propose an absolute flat tax, but told reporters after that she would have at most three tax brackets, which she declined define. Polls show Bachmann trailing behind other contenders in Iowa, which holds the first presidential caucuses in January.

She won an early test vote in Ames in August. But her standing slipped as the GOP electorate rallied first around Perry, who had several weak debate performances, and then Cain, who has spent the last four days trying to redirect media attention away from allegations of sexual harassment filed by at least two women during his tenure at the National Restaurant Association. With jobs and the economy as the top issues on voters' minds, Bachmann hopes her tough talk will help her regain her footing in a state that her advisers see as a linchpin in their strategy. □

Cain struggling with harassment scandal



Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain speaks at the Congressional Health Caucus Thought Leaders Series on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain struggled to keep his candidacy alive on Thursday, denouncing the media and attacking rivals amid revelations that he was repeatedly accused of sexual harassment in his time as a Washington lobbyist. But four days after facts came to light that two women had received cash payments after accusing him of harassment in the

1990s, Cain's public image was still being tarnished by the threat of a damaging written statement by one of his accusers and his own campaign's handling of the scandal.

"This will not deter me" in the race for the White House, Cain declared as he made a series of appearances on conservative media outlets. He repeatedly denied the accusations and blamed a political culture he said as-

sumed guilt "until proven innocent."

At the same time, he tried to demonstrate a campaign returning to normalcy.

He discussed foreign policy with former Henry Kissinger and held other meetings in New York.

Cain has said consistently he never sexually harassed anyone, but his answers to other pertinent questions keep changing. In one instance, he first denied knowing of any financial settlements with his accusers, then said he recalled one. He explained the apparent contradiction by saying that he had been aware of an "agreement" but not a "settlement."

On Wednesday, Cain said he believed a political consultant for rival Rick Perry had leaked the information. The consultant, Curt Anderson, denied it. Cain's campaign chief of staff then went on Fox News to stand by the accusation, then reversed course and said they accepted Anderson's explanation. □

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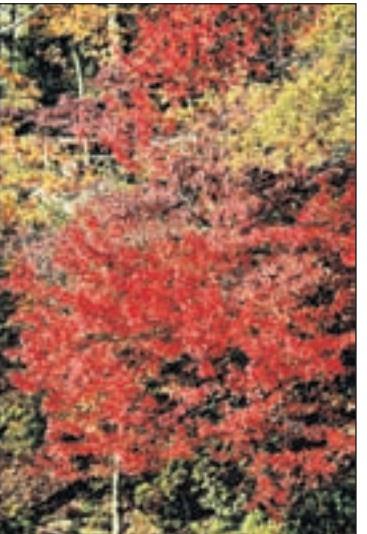
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News Service

NEW YORK — I thought I knew about old forests. First impressions came from childhood, when all woods can seem deep, fearsome and immense. Then from books: They are where Shakespeare's characters magically shed their identities, where Hester Prynne is released from shame, where nature's healing forces are harbored. I have also walked amid the red cedars of the Pacific Northwest, feeling a hushed awe in the presence of the forest primeval.

Wrong, all wrong. Or at least wrong in the ways that matter now in New York. Visit the Thain Family Forest being dedicated this weekend at the New York Botanical Garden, and you will start to think about old forests and their powers in a far different way.

These 50 acres are indeed an "old growth" forest, the last remnant of the 17th-century woodlands that once blanketed the region, the same woods in which the Lenape Indians hunted, with some of the same trees standing. This forest was one reason that this botanical garden ended up in the Bronx. Even in 1891, when the garden was established, the forest's stature was significant. But this forest, far from being a mysterious realm, has become one of the most cultivated, modified and nurtured patches of wilder-

ness anywhere. For more than 20 years the botanical garden has been meticulously examining the forest, dividing it into tracts and cataloging the plants in each area. And now, as a result of those studies, which



Trees in the Thain Family Forest, an old-growth woodland remaining from when such terrain blanketed the area in the 17th century, at the New York Botanical Garden. The forest is being renamed in honor of two major donors, Carmen and John Thain, both members of the garden's board, after the garden examined the forest for more than 20 years, documenting how much of the old growth had changed and completing a multimillion-dollar restoration.

(Librado Romero/The New York Times)

showed how much of the old growth had changed, the garden has completed what it has called a restoration, renaming the forest in honor of two major donors, Carmen and John Thain, both members of the garden's board. □



Trees in the Thain Family Forest, an old-growth woodland remaining from when such terrain blanketed the area in the 17th century, at the New York Botanical Garden. (Librado Romero/The New York Times)

Petition drive challenges medical marijuana ban



Bruce looks at medicinal marijuana for his friend, a breast cancer survivor, at the Sweet Relief collective in Oildale, Calif. A law passed by Kern County in August would have shut many of the dispensaries there, but a group of medical marijuana advocates have started a petition drive to challenge it, an effort nearly unheard of in Kern.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

JESSE MCKINLEY

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Kern County is not exactly the kind of place where you would expect a voter rebellion, what with its conservative rural residents, its live-off-the-land values and its almost unshakable devotion to the Republican Party.

But over the last several months, Kern County — about 100 miles north of Los Angeles in the Central Valley and as far as it can get from San Francisco — has become the scene of a civil war of sorts over an issue, medical marijuana, whose supporters are often of a more liberal stripe. At stake is a controversial new law — passed unanimously in August by the county's all-Republican Board of Supervisors — which would have effectively shut many of the three dozen or so medical marijuana dispensaries in the county.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the ban: A group of medical marijuana advocates started a petition drive to challenge it, calling for a referendum on the law, something that could happen as soon as next year.

In the meantime, the law is on hold.

And while such an effort is nearly unheard of in Kern — perhaps the first time in modern memory that anyone can recall a board-passed law being so challenged — it is not the only place in California, the original medical marijuana state, where local regulation is meeting opposition. Laws passed in several other counties and cities have also been the subject of referendum movements, something permitted by California state law. In San Jose, for example, advocates for medical marijuana filed tens of thousands of signatures on Friday to try to force a vote on a new law that would have regulated dispensaries there, a development that Mayor Chuck Reed said could cost his cash-strapped city — facing a \$100 million deficit next year — sorely needed finances to mount an election. "It's definitely not a small number," Reed said. "But that's the choice we'll have to make." At the same time, some state officials in California are also increasingly perplexed about mixed signs from the federal authorities, who still

view marijuana as illegal under federal law despite legislation in more than a dozen states allowing the drug's medical use. The strongest indication of recent federal disapproval came in early October, when four U.S. attorneys in California said they would crack down on dozens of dispensaries — which sell marijuana to anyone with a doctor's recommendation — saying that many are operating as large-scale drug-selling operations, not medically minded collectives, as required by state law. And while state officials here admit that the current model of distribution is subject to manipulation by those simply wanting to buy marijuana for recreational use, they argue that the federal threats are endangering those who truly need it.

"If there are abuses we should deal with those, but this is not the way to do it," said Tom Ammiano, a state assemblyman from San Francisco, who called the federal threats thuggish. "I expect any day now for a droid to come down on some poor dispensary in Fresno or something and obliterate the people." □

Deficit committee may need more time, a top democrat says

ROBERT PEAR

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — A top House Democrat said this week that a bipartisan committee seeking ways to slash the budget deficit could seek an extension if it was unable to meet its deadline, just three weeks away.

With no visible signs of progress, six of the 12 committee members have begun meeting privately in hopes of overcoming what appears to be the biggest obstacle to agreement: a deadlock over whether tax increases should be part of a deficit-reduction deal.

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat, said in response to a question that members of the committee could not unilaterally extend the Nov. 23 deadline for their final recommendations but could ask the full Congress to do so.

"They are a supercommittee, and they have been given some extraordinary powers," Hoyer said. "They can issue a document that is not subject to amendment and must be considered within a certain time frame and can be passed by 51 senators." But, Hoyer said, the committee "is not the Congress, and it can't extend its deadline itself." When Congress established procedures to increase the federal debt ceiling in August, it set up the joint committee to identify ways of reducing federal deficits by at least \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. Both houses of Congress are supposed to vote on the recommendations by Dec. 23. If legislation to save at least \$1.2 trillion is not enacted, the president in January 2013 is supposed to make up the difference by imposing across-the-board cuts in most military and civilian programs.

In seeking an extension of the deadline, the panel, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, would not have to admit failure, but could tell congressional leaders that it was making progress and needed more time. The prospect of prog-



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Nov. 3, 2011. Pelosi addressed the Democratic strategy to spur job growth in the U.S. (Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

ress could avert the consequences of a failure, which could include a further downgrade of the United States government's credit rating.

To date, Democrats said, progress has been negligible because Republicans have been intransigent. A Democratic aide close to

the discussions said: "It is very disheartening. There is no sense so far that Republicans have been flexible on revenues."

Given this difficulty, the aide said, an extension of the Nov. 23 deadline would not help because "time is not the enemy here."

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Subgroups of the committee have tried to generate momentum. One such group consists of three Republicans — Reps. Dave Camp and Fred Upton of Michigan and Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio — and three Democrats — Sens. Max Baucus of Montana and John Kerry of Massachusetts and Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

"These members really want a deal, really want to find common ground," said a congressional aide. "They are the pragmatists." Maneuvering in the committee came as Senate Democrats tried Wednesday, for the third time in a month, to pass a jobs bill financed with an additional tax on income exceeding \$1 million a year. □

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Meeting with Chinese:

Official tests congress' limits

CHARLIE SAVAGE

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WASHINGTON – A fight over whether a White House official broke the law by meeting with Chinese officials has opened a rare window into how executive branch lawyers, working across administrations of both parties, get around legal limits imposed by Congress.

The dispute centers on a statute forbidding the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy from using its funds for bilateral engagements with Chinese officials. The restriction was inserted into a budget bill by Republican lawmakers who were suspicious of Chinese espionage. President Barack

Obama signed the measure in April.

Although the Supreme Court has never struck down such a law, the Justice Department pronounced it unconstitutional.

The director of the technology office, John Holdren, spent about \$3,500 in public funds to participate



Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) testifies to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in Washington. A fight over whether a White House official broke the law by meeting with Chinese officials has opened a rare window into how executive branch lawyers, working across administrations of both parties, get around legal limits imposed by Congress. (Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

at a conference with visiting Chinese officials in May and to host a dinner and buy gifts for them.

At an oversight hearing on the matter Wednesday, the subcommittee chairman, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., criticized cooperation with China and chastised the administration for violating the statute. But Holdren said that the benefits of engaging with China outweighed the risks and that his actions were lawful, pointing to the Justice Department's advice.

While the power of the department's Office of Legal Counsel to nullify statutes has led to fierce debate in recent years, the highest-profile disputes have involved national security issues like surveillance, where significant portions of the material are classified. By contrast, the executive branch's writings in the current dispute are public. They illustrate how one president's assertion of executive power – sometimes in memorandums that are secret at the time – estab-

lishes a "precedent" for his successors to develop by applying it to new circumstances. Each repetition cements and expands the claim without a court ever weighing in.

"This is a bipartisan project of executive aggrandizement," said Bruce Ackerman, a Yale law professor and critic of the Office of Legal Counsel system. "Law is a disciplined conversation between lawyers and judges. But without any judges, law is a conversation between lawyers and other lawyers – and they're all on the same side, building upon one another."

Dawn Johnson, who led the Office of Legal Counsel for a period during the Clinton administration and was Obama's first nominee for that position, said on some matters the president must rely on Justice Department legal advice.

"The executive should be very wary of ever acting contrary to a federal statute, but on rare occasions it is necessary and appropriate," she said. □

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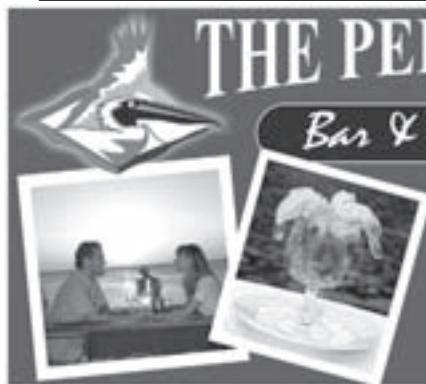
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Democrats attacking Romney on birth control

ASHLEY PARKER

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President Barack Obama's re-election campaign has been hammering Mitt Romney from many angles in recent weeks. And now Democrats are beginning a new push, using reproductive rights to try to raise doubts among women.

The offensive is built around a Web video by the Democratic National Committee, which was released Thursday. The video tries to link statements by Romney to a proposed "personhood" constitutional amendment in Mississippi, which would declare a fertilized human egg to be a legal person, effectively branding abortion and some forms of birth control as murder. The pro-

posed amendment, which will be voted on Tuesday, represents perhaps the furthest front in the anti-abortion movement.

The Democratic video begins with a clip of Mike Huckabee's show on Fox News, where Romney is asked if he would have supported "a constitutional amendment that would have established the definition of life at conception."

"Absolutely," he replied.

Some interpreted Romney's response to mean that he would support a personhood amendment like the Mississippi ballot measure. Personhood amendments ban some forms of birth control that prevent fertilized eggs



Ann Romney talks about her husband Republican presidential candidate former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney during a town hall meeting at the Exeter Town Hall Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011 in Exeter, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

from being implanted in a uterus, like IUDs and "morning-after pills."

In fact, saying life begins at conception, as Romney did, is not nearly the same

as granting an embryo the legal rights and protections of a person. At a forum in Sioux City, Iowa, a few weeks later, a woman pressed him on the issue. Referring to Romney's "Huckabee" appearance, she asked why he opposed the use of birth control.

"I don't," Romney said. "I'm sorry, life begins at conception; birth control prevents conception." Right now, Romney's actual views on birth control – which his campaign refused to clarify in repeated emails – have become somewhat beside the point. Democrats are planning to use the issue to paint Romney as opposed to birth control, in an effort to appeal to female voters. □

Prosecutors: Doctor's greed caused Michael Jackson's death

JENNIFER MEDINA

© 2011 New York Times

LOS ANGELES – Michael Jackson's death was caused by a doctor who was more concerned with making money and protecting himself than caring for his patient, prosecutors said in closing arguments Thursday in the trial of the man who served as the pop singer's private physician in the final months of his life and is now charged with manslaughter.

After 22 days of testimony over six weeks, the trial for Dr. Conrad Murray came to an end with closing statements from prosecutors and defense lawyers, who painted dramatically different pictures of the legendary pop star and the doctor caring for him. □

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World leaders struggle to respond to Euro crisis

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

CANNES, France (AP) —

World leaders' efforts to help Europe with its debt troubles have been paralyzed by uncertainty over Greece's political convulsions and doubts over whether Italy will enact economic reforms designed to save it from financial disaster.

European leaders had meant to use the summit of the Group of 20 leading economies in Cannes, France to get foreign powers like China to help with the debt crisis that has rocked the eurozone for the past two years and threatens to push the world economy into a second recession.

But the foggy situation in Greece — where Prime Minister George Papandreou hopes the opposition will support an unpopular bailout deal — and a lack of details on the eurozone's tools to keep the debt crisis from spreading, meant all negotiations were put on hold. Europe was simply not ready yet.

"The first thing is for Europe to get its act together so we have a clear picture of what Europe is proposing," Mac Maharaj, spokesman for South African President Jacob Zuma, told The Associated Press. "We are very interested in a solution and we believe the



U.S President Barack Obama taps his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy during an afternoon G20 summit session in Cannes, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. French President Nicolas Sarkozy says European leaders cannot accept the "explosion" of the euro and cautiously welcomed Greece's decision to scrap a referendum on a hard-fought European bailout plan.

(AP Photo/Eric Feferberg)

solution is overdue." Whether such a solution would be found in Cannes was questionable on Thursday.

One way some countries want to boost confidence is by boosting the resources of the International Monetary Fund.

"There is a broad view amongst G-20 leaders that there does need to be additional IMF resourcing," Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Thursday night. "Leaders recognize that it is an appropriate move ... so people could be reassured."

The United States, however, maintained its position that the IMF should use its existing resources and leverage them for best use, according to Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser. The U.S. is the fund's largest stakeholder. A draft declaration being

of the political fallout back in the United States if they fail. Both French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Europe needed to come up with a credible strategy to restore confidence in their plan to save the euro, presented just one week ago but undermined by the political turmoil in Greece.

The leaders failed, however, to spell out how they could make progress as they themselves struggled to make sense of what was going on in Athens.

Sarkozy called Papandreou's decision to scrap a referendum on the rescue deal and instead aim for opposition support "interesting," while Merkel told journalists that it was still not clear to her how exactly Athens would back the deal.

Last Thursday, eurozone leaders delivered what they said was a comprehensive response to the crisis.

They reached a deal with banks to forgive Greece 50 percent of the money it owes them, while they promised Athens an extra €100 billion (\$138 billion) in rescue loans.

They also pledged to strengthen banks across the continent and to boost the firepower of their bailout fund to as much as €1 trillion (\$1.4 trillion). A stronger bailout fund is crucial because it would protect large economies like Italy and Spain, which are too big to be rescued, from needing financial aid.

But a week later, the deal was already in danger of falling apart.

In Greece, the second rescue program hinges on support from the opposition, which has so far refused to back Papandreou. □

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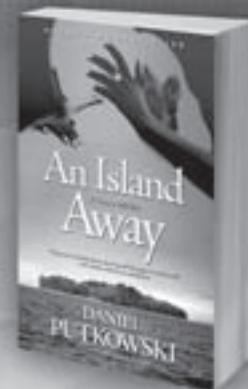
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A school bus lies on its side after crashing with a cargo train in Zanjitas, Argentina, Wednesday Nov. 2, 2011. The cargo train and school bus collided at a railroad crossing, killing one adult and seven schoolgirls on a spiritual retreat with nuns and priests, and at least 35 people were injured. An investigating judge in Argentina says witnesses report that the driver of a bus carrying students and teachers was listening to music over earphones when he crossed in front of a train. (AP Photo/Roberto Lima, Telam)

Argentina judge:

Bus driver in crash had earphones

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — An investigating judge in Argentina says witnesses report

that the driver of a bus carrying students and teachers was listening to music over earphones when he crossed in front of a train.

The crash Wednesday killed six schoolgirls and two teachers and injured 35 people.

Judge Mirtha Esley tells channel C5N that survivors say the driver had on ear-

phones. It is illegal in Argentina for anyone to use earphones while driving.

The judge also quotes survivors as saying the driver jumped from the bus to save himself and left his passengers behind.

He is in police custody. A mother reports that her hospitalized girl says passengers shouted at the driver to warn him a train was coming before he drove onto the tracks. □

Venezuela negotiating hostage release at jail

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Authorities were negotiating with inmates Thursday for the release of three hostages inside a jail in western Venezuela, a military commander said. The inmates are demanding the transfer of 18 fellow prisoners to another lockup closer to courts where their cases can be heard by judges, said Military Cmdr. Hector Coronado. The rebellious inmates, who purportedly belong to a gang, on Wednesday obtained keys to several cell blocks, fatally shot eight fellow prisoners and took four hostages during a riot inside a jail in the city of San Cristobal, capital of Tachira state, said State Police Chief Jesus Berro.

As part of the negotiations, he said, inmates released one of the police officers

who had been held captive.

Coronado ruled out the possibility of ending the standoff by sending soldiers into the jail to re-establish control.

“We have no intentions of entering the jail by force,” he told state television.

Many inmates have been jailed for months and even years while waiting for their cases to be heard. Prisoners air their grievances by regularly seizing relatives of inmates during visiting hours or taking guards as hostages.

Carlos Nieto, a lawyer and prisons activist who heads the group Una Ventana a la Libertad, said many of the problems occurring within Venezuela’s prisons are caused by the country’s sluggish judicial system and systematic violations of regulations that

require criminal suspects to be released within 48 hours if they have not been charged with a crime.

The overcrowding of state and municipal jails, which are unsuited for holding numerous detainees, also contributes to acts of violence by suspects, Nieto said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Thursday.

“Inmates that are currently in police stations should be immediately moved to prisons,” he said.

President Hugo Chavez has recognized prison crowding and rampant violence as a severe problem, and his newly appointed prisons minister, Iris Varela, has pledged to come up with solutions.

Venezuela’s 30 prisons were designed to hold about 12,000 inmates but are currently packed with

about 47,000, according to official figures.

Inmates frequently acquire contraband including fire-

arms and drugs, often obtaining them from visiting relatives or prison guards who accept bribes. □

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matinee: 1:15

late show: 12:00

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Libya balances urges for justice and revenge

ADAM NOSSITER

© 2011 New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya — The present and future are daunting enough for the wobbly authorities here, but then there is the tormented past to consider as well: four decades of state crimes whose wounds demand attention.

With mass murders, disappearances and public executions, the victims of Moammar Gadhafi's People's Court, Internal Security Agency and State Security Court number in the tens of thousands, human rights advocates here and abroad say. How will Libyans come to terms with their past?

Already, the provisional leaders are pondering options for exposing the long catalog of killings and torture, looking to models from South Africa, Europe and Latin America. They are motivated by a conviction, they say, that a new nation cannot be built unless light is shed on the dark corners of the old.

The specifics are being worked out, like so much else in a country that appears to be shaking itself awake after a long, bad dream. But the interim minister of justice, a veteran of legal jousting with the Gadhafi regime from within and without, said there was a tentative plan: investigation, public hearings and prosecution, with the inquiry reaching all the way



Defaced graffiti portraying Moammar Gadhafi outside the Abu Salim prison, which was used to house political prisoners by Gadhafi's regime, in Tripoli, Libya. Officials of Libya's interim government say they have a tentative plan for investigations, public hearings and prosecutions for human rights crimes committed under Gadhafi.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

back to the earliest days of Gadhafi's rise to power in 1969.

"We look to Chile, Argentina, South Africa — we take part of South Africa," said the interim justice minister, Mohammed al-Alagi, referring to the approach of that country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which emphasized fact-finding and accountability rather than punishment. Most important, al-Alagi suggested in an interview in the empty and echoing Justice Ministry here, was the imperative for Libyans to confront Gadhafi-era crimes in a country where there was no independent media to report them. That priority should trump even prosecution and punishment, said al-Alagi, a former leader of the bar

association here, as well as a one-time high-ranking official in a so-called human rights foundation during the Gadhafi era, according to Human Rights Watch. A Libya expert suggested, however, that al-Alagi had advanced human rights causes at the foundation, at some danger to himself. "It was to Alagi that a lot of the lawyers would go for help," said the expert, Heba Fatma Morayef, a Libya researcher with Human Rights Watch. "He would take the risk of actually giving me information." Al-Alagi said in the interview this week that an investigative committee would be established "to show the public what happened, the reality." "Then," he said, "fair trials for everyone."

He provided no details about the committee, saying only that it was proposed in a draft law now under consideration by the interim government, the National Transitional Council. Of course, with no institutions, a court system that needs a top-to-bottom overhaul and militias all over the country that have not yet disarmed, a legal reckoning with the past is necessarily some ways off. Yet there are already indications that when the time comes, the crimes of the Gadhafi era will not be swept under the rug: Libyans are outraged by them, even if they do not know all the details, and officials like al-Alagi have shown that they are thinking about them as well.

"To rebuild society, people should know all of the truth," al-Alagi said. "You can't imagine how people suffered over 42 years. They raped the women in front of their fathers and brothers." But he was careful to state that the emphasis should not be on retribution, an indication of the persisting links between the old and new orders, and the fact that some in the interim government played roles in the Gadhafi government. Indeed, it is a recognition that to some extent nearly everyone in some way played a role in facilitating the old order and that catharsis, not punishment, is the point. □

Afghanistan:
Militants attack civilian contractor

RAY RIVERA

SHARIFULLAH SAHAK

© 2011 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents attacked a logistics company that works with NATO in the western city of Herat on Thursday, igniting a three-hour gun battle that left two Afghan security guards and five insurgents dead, local officials said. Afghan and coalition forces evacuated 31 civilians from the compound during the attack, which took place about a half mile from NATO's regional headquarters in Heart province, said Sgt. Juan Ardura Santa Engracia, a spokesman for the regional NATO command. At least four people were wounded, according to initial unconfirmed reports. Herat has been one of the country's safest major cities and was among seven locations that began the transition from coalition troops to Afghan security forces in July, although NATO troops maintain a substantial presence there. The attack was the latest to take place in or near a heavily fortified urban area. Militants staged a similar attack in the city of Kandahar on Monday that killed five people, including a senior police chief and three Afghan workers with the U.N. refugee agency. □

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New law will let Cubans buy and sell real estate

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — For the first time in a half-century, Cubans will be allowed to buy and sell real estate openly, bequeath property to relatives without restriction and avoid forfeiting their homes if they abandon the country. The highly anticipated new rules instantly transform islanders' cramped, dilapidated homes into potential liquid assets in the most significant reform yet adopted by President Raul Castro since he took over the communist country from his brother in 2008.

But plenty of restrictions remain. Cuban exiles continue to be barred from owning property on the island, though they can presumably help relatives make purchases by sending money. And foreigners can also hold off on dreams of acquiring a pied-a-terre under the Caribbean sun, since only citizens and permanent residents are eligible. The law, which takes effect Nov. 10, limits Cubans to owning one home in the city and another in the country, an effort to prevent speculative buying and the accumulation of

large real estate holdings. While few Cubans have the money to start a real estate empire, many city dwellers have struggled over the years to maintain title to family homes in the countryside, and the new law legalizes the practice. The change follows October's legalization of buying and selling cars, though with restrictions that still make it hard for ordinary Cubans to buy new vehicles.

The government has also allowed citizens to go into business for themselves in a number of approved jobs — everything from party clowns to food vendors and accountants — and permitted them to rent out rooms and cars.

While Castro has stressed that there will be no departure from Cuba's socialist model, he has also pledged to streamline the state-dominated economy by eliminating hundreds of thousands of state jobs and ending generous subsidies the state can no longer afford. Cuba's government employs about 80 percent of the workforce, paying wages of just \$20 a month in return for free education



Nilda Bouzo, right, speaks with her husband Ives Lopez next to a sign that reads in Spanish "Exchange Apartment Two for One" in their home balcony in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. Property exchanges and signs such as the one in the picture were already legal in Cuba. In addition, the government announced Thursday they will also allow real estate to be bought and sold for the first time since the early days of the revolution in what is believed to be one of the most important reform yet in a series of free-market changes under President Raul Castro. (AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

and health care, and nearly free housing, transportation and basic foods. Economists and Cuba experts say the new property law will have a profound impact on people's lives, though probably will not be enough by itself to transform the island's limping economy. "This is a very positive step in the right direction toward greater economic freedom and individual and family rights of private property," said Ted Henken, a professor at Baruch College in New York who has extensively studied Cuba's economy. □

Venezuela FM station: Troops seized equipment

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The owner of a radio station in western Venezuela says dozens of National Guard soldiers have seized broadcasting equipment as part of an investigation launched by the country's state telecommunications commission. Jose Ramon Socorro says about 50 armed soldiers entered Kalor 91.1 FM and took away the equipment. Socorro calls Thursday's incident an armed assault. He says the troops did not provide details on the reason for the investigation or confiscation.

Representatives of the state telecommunications commission have not answered telephone calls seeking comment. Press freedom watchdogs have accused Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez of trying to suppress the country's independent media. □

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With an app, your next date could be around the corner



Shana Hensley, who said cellphone apps are convenient when looking for a date, looks at her phone in Denver. Services from veteran sites like Match.com and eHarmony, and standalone ventures, make it possible to make a date with a stranger using location technology.

(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

JENNA WORTHAM
© 2011 New York Times

Christina Wang has her date-night routine down pat. She combs her hair, fixes her makeup and then checks her phone, hoping to find Mr. Right, who might just happen to be nearby, right now.

Wang, a 20-year-old psychology student at St. John's University in New York, is among the growing pool of people using cellphone applications that let them make an instant date, based on who is in the area and available to grab a drink.

The idea of meeting someone on the fly through a mobile app based solely on proximity may seem, at first, like a risky proposition. But the operators of these services say they are aware of the potential pitfalls and allow users to control how much information they divulge. And users say it's another step in the continuum of courtship — always fraught with peril — from traditional matchmakers to personal ads to online dating.

Wang and others who use these services — typically people in their 20s and 30s — say they are a slightly updated version of Internet dating sites. They say the services allow them to skip the more elaborate mating rituals of standard on-

line dating, which seems to move glacially in an era of texting and social networking.

"It can take a month to actually meet up with someone that you're messaging online," Wang said. Mobile services allow for a "quicker jump from virtual meet-

ing to actually meeting."

On the apps, which use smartphone location technology, users post a simple profile and then broadcast their availability, or scan a list of others who have done so. They can immediately exchange messages and, if there is mutual interest, decide where to meet. Some of the apps are stand-alone, while others are new features of established dating sites; there

are fewer than a dozen so far, including Blendr, OkCupid Locals and HowAboutWe. They tend to be free, making money by selling ads or charging for extra features.

OkCupid Locals is part of OkCupid, a larger dating site, which says a tenth of its 2.5 million members use the mobile app. HowAboutWe began a little more than a year ago as a website where people post suggestions for dates they would like to go on. (One recent idea: "How about we go on a cupcake tour of Manhattan?") It released an iPhone app with location features in June. Since then, the company says, more than 100,000 dates have been posted through the app, or roughly 30 percent of the total dates ever posted on the service.

The trailblazer among these services is Grindr, which is geared toward gay men and has signed up 2.6 mil-



Shana Hensley, who said cellphone apps are convenient when looking for a date, looks at the HowAboutWe app on her phone at the Common Grounds Coffeehouse in Denver.

(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

lion members in the 1 1/2 years it has been in business. In late summer its creators released Blendr, aimed at people who have similar interests. The creators of Grindr and Blendr don't say their sites are strictly for dating, but Grindr promotes dating as one of its uses. Grindr has earned a racy reputation in part because it features only a user's profile picture, his location and a very short description. □

There's a time, a look and boot for everything



There's fall and spring, winter and summer — and there's boot season. For many fashion fans, that's the best time of year. Time to break out the knee boots and jeans, riding boots and leggings and maybe your best black work trousers and those cute high-heel booties you bought last year.

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's fall and spring, winter and summer — and there's boot season. For many fashion fans, that's the best time of year.

Time to break out the cowboy boots and jeans, riding boots and leggings and maybe your best black work trousers and those cute high-heel booties you bought last year.

They're all easy, almost no-fail pairings. Finding the right skirt to go with boots, however, is more likely to trip you up, especially this particular season when it seems anything goes with hemlines.

Do long skirts get tall shafts or shorter ones? What's the rule on miniskirts? And can functional weather-friendly boots meet a fashion-forward midiskirt somewhere

on the middle of the calf? "Boots can do it better than almost anything when it comes to pulling your look together, but it also can cut you up," says celebrity stylist Cristina Ehrlich.

She adds: "You have to put your outfit on. If your eye goes straight for the foot, then something isn't right. You want a full 'look.'"

Since proportion matters, she suggests every outfit get the mirror test because what works for one skirt might not for the next, even if they're similar styles.

It's all about lines. You don't really want the top of the boot to meet the hemline; it could be longer or shorter — and filled in, when needed, with opaque tights, says Jen Ford, fashion news director at Lucky magazine. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Ventanas del Mar Restaurant dedicates an evening to Pinot Noir



Tierra del Sol -- The tightly clustered dark purple pinecone-shaped bunches of fruit representing a black wine-grape variety known as Pinot Noir, was the subject of discussion around the community table at Ventanas del Mar restaurant just recently as the wine chiefly associated with the Burgundy region of France, but also cultivated around the globe in other wine growing countries, starred in the monthly culinary adventure pairing food and wine, by Arion Wine Company.

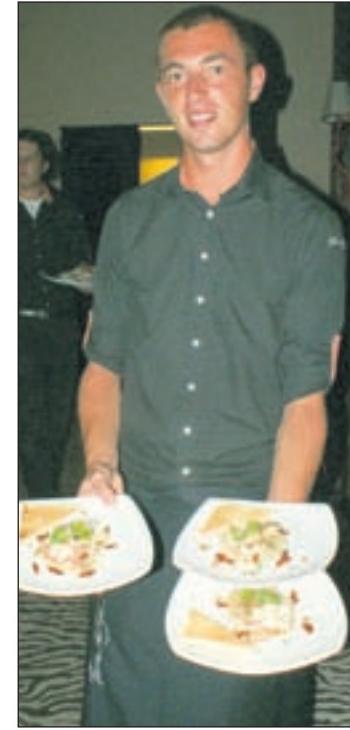
The culinary artists of Ventanas del Mar Restaurant paired five different Pinot Noirs with delectable food for a much enjoyed evening recently.

The Terrine of Chicken and Veal was paired with Domaine Gérard Neumeyer, Quintessence, Pinot Noir from Alsace France. The fresh Goat Cheese Salad

was accompanied by the Kim Crawford Pinot Noir Marlborough New Zealand. The main course of Oriental Tuna with Angel Hair was chased by La Crema Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast California.

The second main course, Tenderloin Wrapped in Bacon was escorted by Bodegas Salentein Pinot Noir Reserve, Uco Valley Mendoza Argentina, and the Cheese & Red Fruits dessert enjoyed th

e company of Murphy-Goode Pinot Noir California Arion Wine Company representative Joost Robben helped put the menu and wines together. Diners around the community table shared tasting notes and learned about the characteristics of each wine growing region, with the emphasis on Pinot Noir often considered hard to grow as it is sensitive to climate changes. □

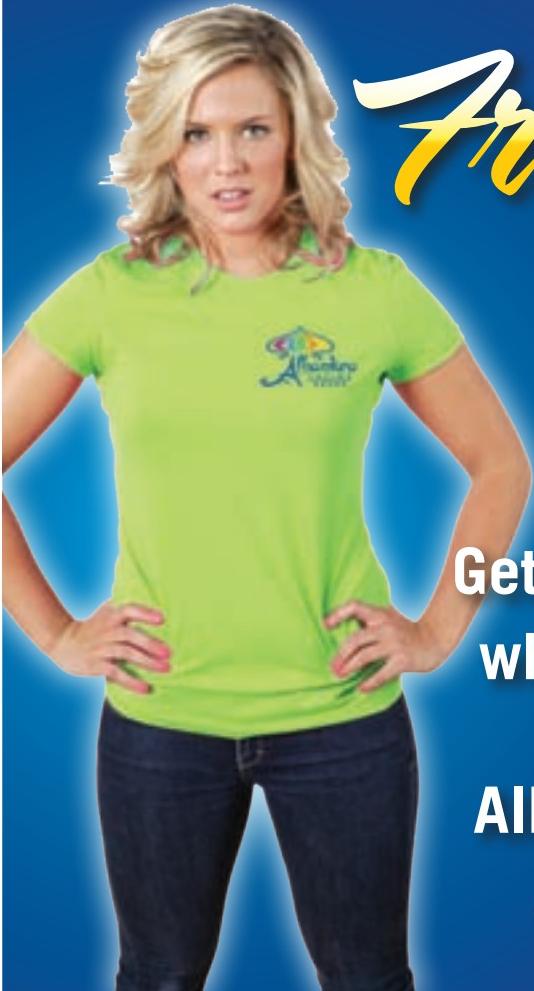


Halloween Celebrations at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club



EAGLE BEACH -- The Sit & Chat Café has been hosting themed luncheons for a number of years, designed to entertain and pamper staff members of the resort on their lunch break. The front office was entrusted with the task of orchestrating a spooktacular Halloween celebration, and they came up with some fun costumes including a living, breathing oversize pumpkin. Pictured here the inventive front desk crew of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club which delivered a much-enjoyed luncheon, filled with witches and ghouls, in the otherwise tranquil and relaxing cafeteria.□





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Health Week observed at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club



Eagle Beach – Health Week is observed at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club twice a year in the Spring and in the Fall. The resort's Green, Health & Safety Committee puts together the Health Week program in conjunction with other departments, encouraging resort employees to get tested, also offering a program of interesting lectures relating to the subject.

While management provides all testing materials and equipment the resort's own certified EMT staff performs blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol checks.

As a pre-requisite all associates were asked to adhere to the pre-test two hour "no-food-no-drink" rule, and the majority of associates made good use of the opportunity, lining up early for their turn.

The results of each associate were recorded and compared to previous readings, so that each associate was informed of his health indicators and made aware of all danger signs.

The Green, Health & Safety Committee is grateful to the EMT Team for their wonderful cooperation. Medical Coordinator Lindoro Abraham Vera reported most results were within norm, as the resort focused this year on living a healthier life-style, and the numbers certainly reflect this trend. Rosanne Roy, Associate Relations Manager, La Ca-

bana Beach & Racquet Club, explains that the EMTs doing the glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol tests with Abraham

Vera, are Clara Acevedo, Igmar Franken and Pierre Kock, who volunteer their time, and are important contributors to resort employee well-being and morale.

The team offered to give the media photographer a check up, at the end of which they gave her a clean bill of health. □



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The Radisson Bowling Tournament concludes with Winners and Prizes



Palm Beach -- An inter-departmental Bowling Tournament pitched a number of fierce and competitive teams against each other at the Eagle Bowling Palace, with Evo Entertainment entrusted with the musical accompaniment. Of the fourteen teams 1st place winner was Baal

Loco, and 2nd place winner the All Stars Team, with Captain Raynold Semeleer. Best Male Player was Kendrick Tromp and Danny Muller as runner up. Best Female Player was Esperanza Castillo with Maria Medina as runner up. The four best play-

ers received dinner for two certificates and the two best teams received trophies, reports Angelique Croes, the Human Resources Manager, Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. Pictured here the fun event at the Eagle Bowling Palace. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this photo released by Marina Bay Sands, Tiger Woods stands on top of the roof of the Marina Bay Sands hotel in Singapore, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011.

Associated Press

Woods says he's healthy, ready to improve play

SINGAPORE (AP) — Tiger Woods said Thursday he's ready to return to top form after shaking off injuries that have undermined his performance for the last two years.

The former world No. 1 told reporters in Singapore that he has been practicing frequently at home and getting his playing instincts back.

"The last couple of years, I haven't really played as well as I'd like," Woods told reporters during a one-day stopover in Singapore. "I made some changes in my swing and I've obviously been hurt and that kind of added to it."

"Now I'm healthy, playing again, playing more and playing consistently."

Woods hasn't had a tournament victory since 2009 and has fallen out of the top 50 for the first time since he was a 20-year-old rookie in 1996. Woods played at the Frys.com Open last month and tied for 30th. He is scheduled to play in the Australian Open from Nov. 10-13.

Woods chalked up his diminished play in recent years to the "cyclical" nature of a golfer's career. □

SWISS MOVEMENT



Andy Roddick from the U.S. returns a ball to Czech's Radek Stepanek during their round of sixteen match at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle stadium in Basel, Switzerland, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011.

Associated Press

Page 20

Rescued Chilean miner returns to NYC Marathon

MELISSA MURPHY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rescued Chilean miner Edison Pena is returning to run the New York City Marathon following a year in which he was hospitalized for psychological problems and reported drug and alcohol issues.

Pena became a media sensation in the United States when he completed the marathon last year, less than a month after he and 32 other miners were rescued from a collapsed Chilean copper mine. They had been trapped for 69 days.

He said Thursday that the trauma of the event has "hit us now." The first anniversary of the rescue was Oct. 13.

"I don't really want to go into depth about the chal-

Cano lifts MLB stars 5-3 over Taiwan team

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Robinson Cano doubled in a run in the seventh inning to help an MLB All-Star team beat Taiwan 5-3 in the second game of a five-game series on Thursday.

Cano also singled and scored in the sixth inning in the game in Taichung.

"They got a great team," Cano said. "They played a pretty good game."

The Taiwanese went ahead 3-2 in the fifth, scoring twice on three hits and a walk. The MLB squad tied it in the sixth and added two more runs in the seventh.

Relievers Rich Thompson, Ramon Ramirez and Bill Bray kept the Taiwanese scoreless from the sixth inning on.

In the series opener on Tuesday, the MLB team won 7-0 in a game halted in the sixth inning because of rain. The teams play in Taichung on Friday before closing the series with two weekend games in Kaohsiung. □



Edison Pena speaks at a news conference in New York, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. Pena, who was one of the Chilean miners trapped underground last year, will run in his second New York City marathon on Sunday.

Associated Press

lenges that I faced, but suffice to say that I have gotten help and declared a truce with the problems I've had," Pena said at a press conference in New York. "I'm very fortunate to have a team of therapists, and right now I feel pretty good."

It was a stark contrast from the press conference last year, when a jovial Pena

charmed more than 100 media members and topped it off with a rendition of "Return to Sender" by Elvis Presley. He declined a request for a song Thursday, saying many of his fellow miners don't have jobs and suffer from "psychological issues" and insomnia.

"The impact of being trapped in the mine —

we're feeling after we got out of the mine," Pena said through an interpreter. He's received no financial benefit from the mining company or the Chilean government, but has gotten support from his wife and family during his ordeal, he said. No book or movie deals have materialized.

"The hardest time of the last year was when I was hospitalized. I realized that I felt like I was divided in two," Pena said. "That there was a normal me and a me that was a gorilla, and that I need to control that gorilla."

He's back to tackle the 26.2-mile (42.2-kilometer) course in New York because "running is very therapeutic for me."

"I decided to run again because I wanted to encourage others, and I wanted to show them and show myself that, 'Yes, we can,'" he said.

The 35-year-old Pena earned the nickname "The Runner" after logging up to six miles each day through the gold and copper mine tunnels in Chile to keep

his mind and body sharp. He ran in steel-toed boots in the sweltering darkness until rescuers managed to make contact after 17 days and lowered down food and a pair of running shoes.

He also requested Presley songs be sent down and sang for his trapped miners to lift their spirits. His beloved singer was blasting over speakers when he crossed the NYC Marathon finish line last year, draped in the Chilean flag. He ran, walked and hobbled on a bad knee to finish in 5 hours, 40 minutes.

His whirlwind U.S. tour included an appearance on the TV program "Late Show with David Letterman" and a visit to Graceland, Presley's estate in Memphis, Tennessee.

Accompanied by his therapist to New York, Pena cracked a rare smile during the press conference when he heard himself singing an Elvis tune during video highlights of his marathon quest from last year.

"Stay tuned for songs," Pena said. "Maybe not today, but another day." □

Ian Thorpe nervous about comeback race

ALEX KENNEDY

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Former Olympic swimming champion Ian Thorpe said Thursday he's nervous ahead of his first competitive races in five years this weekend in Singapore.

The 29-year-old Australian, who announced his comeback in February, said his results in training have been inconsistent and he's not going to try to target a specific time or place.

"It's not going to be extraordinary and it's not going to be horrible," Thorpe told reporters. "I'm the guy who hasn't swum for five years. I forget that from time to time and I think some other people here might forget that as well. It's my first time back in the pool it's not going to be easy." Thorpe will be competing



Former Olympic swimming champion Ian Thorpe of Australia conducts training Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011 ahead of the Swimming World Cup scheduled for the weekend.

Associated Press

in the 100-meter individual medley and 100-meter butterfly at a World Cup event in Singapore on Friday and Saturday.

"I'm more nervous than I usually am before a com-

petition," he said. "As it's come a bit closer, I'm getting more nervous about it." Even though he has yet to return to his peak form, he still feels on track to compete at next year's

London Olympics. "There are days when I feel like I'm the best swimmer in the world," he said. "And it's really strange because the next day I'll be helpless. I get little glimmers of how I felt when I used to swim." Thorpe retired in 2006 after winning five Olympic gold medals and 11 world titles and setting 13 individual world records. He said his comeback wasn't motivated by a desire to beat Michael Phelps, the American swimmer who won six gold medals and two bronzes at the Athens Olympics in 2004, and eight golds in Beijing in 2008.

"My biggest rival is time," Thorpe said. "I'm not the kind of person who races off other people. I'm not a person who gets pumped up to beat someone else." □

Lupul's hat trick leads Maple Leafs past Devils

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Joffrey Lupul got his first hat trick in almost four years in a wild second period as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the New Jersey Devils 5-3 in the NHL on Wednesday.

Lupul scored three times in a span of 7:22 against Martin Brodeur, who returned to the ice after missing six games with a bruised right shoulder. Joey Crabb and Mikhail Grabovski also had goals for the Maple Leafs. The last time Lupul scored three goals in a game was on Dec. 12, 2007 against the Pittsburgh Penguins. Lupul now has eight goals this season. He scored just 14 last season in 54 games with the Anaheim Ducks and Maple Leafs combined.

Patrik Elias, Darius Zubrus and David Clarkson scored for the Devils, who have lost five of six.

Phil Kessel increased his NHL scoring lead with two assists for Toronto. He has 10 goals and 10 assists in 12 games. Flyers 3, Sabres 2 In Buffalo, New York, Ilya Bryzgalov made 29 saves

and Philadelphia scored three quick goals in the first period to beat the Sabres. It was the first meeting between the teams since the Flyers eliminated the Sabres in seven games during their Eastern Conference playoff series last season.

Sean Couturier, James van Riemsdyk and Scott Hartnell scored for the Flyers, who won their second straight after losing four of five.

Luke Adam and Andrej Sekera scored for the Sabres, who have lost four of five. Buffalo's All-Star goalie Ryan Miller was pulled after Hartnell made it 3-0 just 6:23 into the game.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 1 In Denver, Radim Vrbata scored two goals and Mike Smith stopped 39 shots to lift Phoenix over Colorado. Taylor Pyatt and Lauri Korpikoski also scored to help the Coyotes win their third straight game.

Ryan O'Reilly had the lone goal for the Avalanche. Vrbata sealed the win when he scored an empty-net goal against his former team with 1:33 remaining. □



Toronto Maple Leafs left wing Joffrey Lupul skates with the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the New Jersey Devils, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, in Newark, N.J. Lupul scored three goals in the second period.

Associated Press

Sporting KC advances to MLS conference finals

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP)

— C.J. Sapong and Aurelien Collin gave Sporting Kansas City a 2-0 victory over the defending MLS Cup champion Colorado Rapids on Wednesday to advance to the Eastern Conference playoff finals. Real Salt Lake also advanced to the Western Conference finals for the second time in three years with a 3-2 aggregate victory over the Seattle Sounders. Seattle topped Real Salt Lake 2-0 at home on Wednesday, but it wasn't enough to offset a 3-0 loss in the first leg of the two-game semifinal series in Salt Lake on Saturday.

Collin deflected Graham Zusi's free kick into the net to open the scoring for Kansas City in the 28th minute. Sapong directed a header past Colorado goalkeeper Matt Pickens to get Sporting's second goal in the 76th minute. Sporting had defeated Colorado 2-0 on Sunday to take the first



Sporting Kansas City forward Kei Kamara (23) saves the ball from going out of bounds as Colorado Rapids midfielder Wells Thompson (15) sails over Kamara's leg in the first half during an MLS soccer game in the first half on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, at Livestrong Sporting Park in Kansas City, Kan.

Associated Press

Dempsey U.S. player of year for 2nd time

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Clint Dempsey has been voted the Futbol de Primera U.S. national team player of the year award for the second time. The 28-year-old midfielder and forward received 375 points and 99 first-place votes in balloting by media released Wednesday. Dempsey also won the award in 2006.

Goalkeeper Tim Howard was second with 252 points, followed by midfielder Landon Donovan, a six-time winner, with 191.

Dempsey has four goals in 12 games the U.S. this year, giving him 23 goals in 80 international appearances. When he scored for Fulham last weekend, Dempsey drew level with Brian McBride for the most Premier League goals among Americans with 36.

The award was formerly known as the Honda player of the year. □



In this June 19, 2011 file photo, United States' Clint Dempsey celebrates after scoring a goal during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinal soccer match against Jamaica at RFK Stadium in Washington.

Associated Press

game in their series. The side will play either the Houston Dynamo or Philadelphia Union in the Eastern Conference finals starting on Sunday. The Rapids were without several players due to injuries. Captain Pablo Mastroeni has been out since suffering a concussion in mid-October and Jamie Smith injured his knee in a wild card playoff victory last week.

Three more players went down in Sunday's loss: Ireland striker Caleb Folan, Kosuke Kimura and Drew Moor. Tyrone Marshall was missed Wednesday's contest after being red-carded Sunday. □



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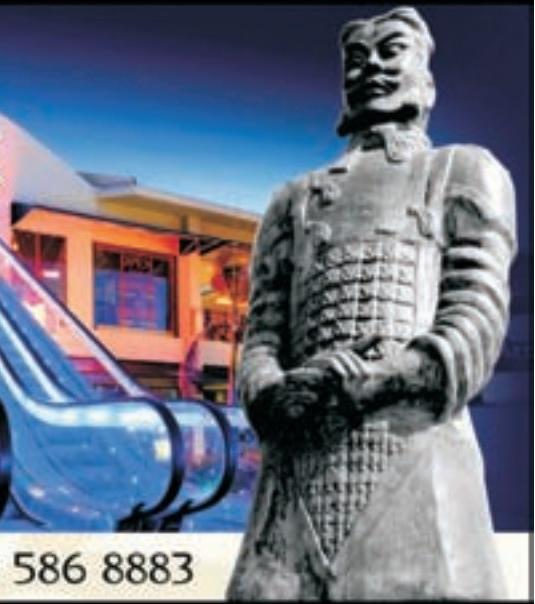
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Djokovic eases to win over Kubot at Swiss Indoors

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) —

Novak Djokovic stepped up his level of play after a six-week injury break, cruising to a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Lukasz Kubot in the Swiss Indoors second round on Thursday.

The top-ranked Serb, who rested to treat a back injury, needed just 55 minutes to defeat the 64th-ranked qualifier from Poland.

"It was really a comfortable match for me," said Djokovic. "It was kind of expected at the start of the tournament that I would struggle with my rhythm ... but today I have no complaints with my game."

He served eight aces and dropped just 10 points on serve in eight service games.

"I just started serving two or three days before my first match (on Tuesday). I can still feel on the second serve that I'm struggling a little bit," Djokovic said.

Djokovic improved to 66-3 this year in his first tournament since winning the U.S. Open in September. He will play Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Seventh-seeded Andy Roddick recovered from losing the opening set to beat Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Roddick next plays Roger Federer, a four-time champion at his hometown event, in a meeting of the remaining seeded players



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning his round of sixteen match against Poland's Lukasz Kubot at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011.

Associated Press

to reach the last eight. "I think the only other tournament we have played so many times is Wimbledon," said the American, who is 0-3 against Federer in Basel.

Also, there were second-round wins for four unseeded players: Florian Mayer of Germany, Kei Nishikori of Japan, 113th-ranked Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan and Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland.

Mayer beat Ivan Ljubicic 6-3, 6-1 for his first victory in four matches against the big-serving Croat.

Mayer is enjoying a career-best year at age 28. He won his first tour title in September, at Bucharest.

Romania, and beat Rafael Nadal at the Shanghai Masters last month.

"It gave me a lot of confidence, that's for sure. It's maybe a great chance to take (my ranking) into the top 20," Mayer said.

Wawrinka will face Mayer on Friday, after he also rebounded from a one-set deficit to beat Robin Haase of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Nishikori continued to make good use of his wild-card entry, beating Andreas Seppi of Italy, 6-3, 7-6 (4). The 32nd-ranked Japanese had beaten fourth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych in the first round. □



President of the Players Union Derek Fisher, center, talks with reporters after leaving an NBA labor talk meeting, Monday, Oct. 10, 2011, in New York. NBA Commissioner David Stern canceled the first two weeks of the basketball season after players and owners were unable to reach a new labor deal to end the lockout. Opening night was scheduled for Nov. 1.

Associated Press

NBA asks judge to clear obstacle in talks

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An NBA lawyer urged a U.S. federal judge on Wednesday to help end a stalemate with the NBA players union by agreeing to consider the legality of its lockout.

The league locked out its players on July 1, and NBA Commissioner David Stern has already canceled all November games.

The NBA, which filed suit the players union in August, wants U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe to rule that the NBA's lockout would not be considered an antitrust violation if the players dissolve their union.

In oral arguments in New York, NBA attorney Jeffrey Mishkin said the NBA Player's Association is using the possibility of an antitrust fight like "a loaded gun" in order to gain an upper hand at the negotiating

table.

"They prefer the uncertainty," Mishkin said of the union's effort to get the lawsuit tossed out. "It's like taking a loaded gun and laying it on the table."

Gardephe, however, expressed reluctance to wade into the NBA's labor mess. He brushed aside Mishkin's argument, saying that posturing is part of negotiations.

"If they've put the gun on the table, it's not clear there are any bullets in it," the judge said. "The courts discount threats of litigation in the context of collective bargaining."

Progress has stalled since talks broke off last Friday over the revenue split. The union's executive committee plans to meet Thursday in New York, a person with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press. □

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Justin Verlander selected player of year in union vote

NEW YORK (AP)—Detroit Tigers ace Justin Verlander has been selected player of the year in voting by the Major League Baseball Players Association, becoming the second pitcher to earn the honor. Verlander beat out Boston first baseman Adrian Gonzalez and New York Yankees outfielder Curtis Granderson for the Players Choice Award, announced Thursday. The only other pitcher to win it was Boston's Pedro Martinez in 1999.

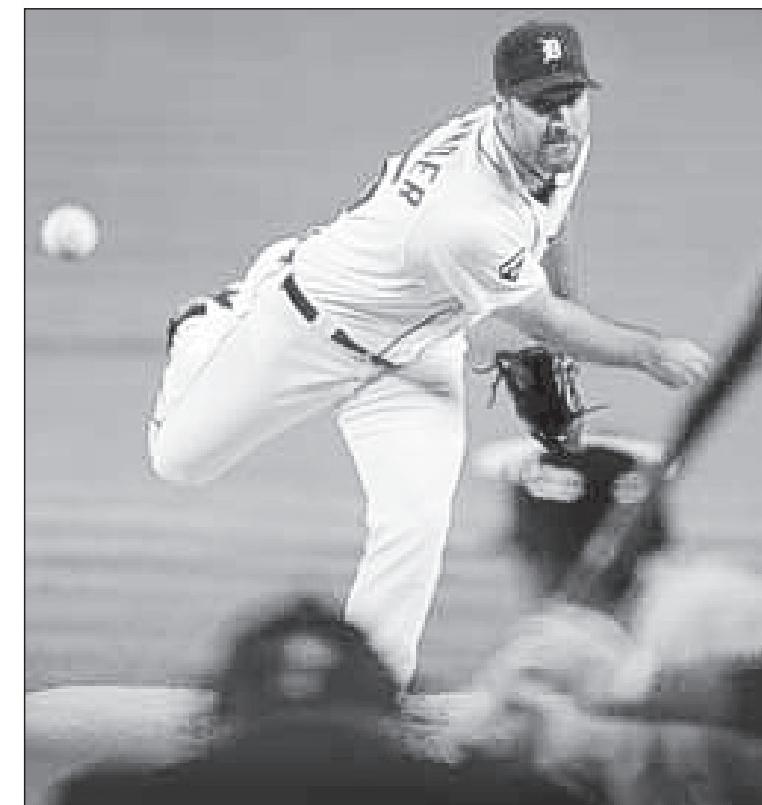
"Obviously from a personal standpoint, it was an amazing year. I worked extremely hard for this," Verlander said during a conference call. "If you expect great-

ness, it shouldn't surprise you. So I've always expected myself to be able to pitch this way. So it still doesn't surprise me I did." Verlander was 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and 250 strikeouts, leading the AL in all three categories. "I think I'll be looking back at this one for a long time," he said. "I don't know if I'll have a season like this again, but I'm not going to discount it. I'm not going to say I won't. Things have to go right for it to happen, but I would say I can pitch better. I think I'm still scratching the surface here." The heavy favorite for the AL Cy Young Award and a contender for AL MVP, Verlander had

the most wins in the majors since Arizona's Randy Johnson in 2002. The right-hander found a groove after going 2-3 in his first seven starts and in the second half became the first pitcher to win 12 straight starts since Minnesota's Johan Santana in 2004.

"I got away from throwing," Verlander said. "Early in games specifically, I slowed down on purpose to try to create a platform and build off of that. ... If I'm not throwing at 100 percent, if I'm throwing at 95 percent, I'm going to be much more accurate."

Colorado Rockies outfielder Carlos Gonzalez won the award last year. □



In this Oct. 3, 2011, file photo, Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws during the first inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League division series against the New York Yankees in Detroit.

Associated Press

Ex-Giant Matty Alou, 72, dies in Dominican Rep.

JANIE McCUALEY
AP Baseball Writer

Matty Alou, once part of an all-Alou outfield for the San Francisco Giants with brothers Felipe and Jesus, died on Thursday in his native Dominican Republic. He was 72.

He died of diabetes complications, according to his former Dominican team, Leones del Escogido. The Giants also confirmed his death and said Alou had been sick for several years with a variety of health issues.

Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda said he knew his "great friend" had been ailing.



In this Aug. 25, 1996 file photo, the Alou brothers, from left, Jesus, Matty and Felipe, pose for photographers after a pregame reunion ceremony in San Francisco. Matty Alou, once part of an all-Alou outfield for the San Francisco Giants with brothers Felipe and Jesus, died Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011, of complications related to diabetes in his native Dominican Republic. He was 72.

Associated Press

"We roomed together a few times with the Giants," Cepeda said by phone. "Very funny guy, hell of a ballplayer."

When Matty was playing with the Giants, he was a dead fastball hitter, he could pull anybody, I don't care how hard they threw." A two-time Major League Baseball All-Star, Alou became the 1966 National League batting champion with Pittsburgh when he hit .342.

He spent his first six years with San Francisco from 1960-65 and also played for St. Louis, Oakland, the New York Yankees and San Diego.

"Although he played for six different teams, Matty remained a part of the Giants family as a longtime employee and will be forever linked with his brothers, Felipe and Jesus,—as the first all-brother major league outfield," the Giants said. Alou was a career .307 hitter with 31 home runs, 427 RBIs, 1,777 hits and 236 doubles in 15 MLB seasons.

"He went to Pittsburgh and switched from a light bat to a heavy bat, and he hit .340 one year," Cepeda recalled.

The Alou brothers made history in 1963 when they appeared in the same outfield for several games. □

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FDA officials point to increased drug approvals

GARDINER HARRIS

© 2011 New York Times

Federal drug officials Thursday claimed credit for an increase in the approval of new drugs and argued that the results demonstrated the need for legislation to continue financing the current drug approval system. The Food and Drug Administration approved 35 new drugs in the year that ended in September, a number that was surpassed only once in the past decade. The agency approved 24 of the drugs before they were approved in any other country. And many of them were important advances, including the first new drug for lupus in 50 years, the first new drug for Hodgkin lymphoma in 30 years, and the first drugs for late-stage melanoma that have been shown to prolong survival.



Federal drug officials Thursday claimed credit for an increase in the approval of new drugs and argued that the results demonstrated the need for legislation to continue financing the current drug approval system.

"I want to underscore that we approved a set of drugs that are truly medically important, and in fact did so in a way that made these drugs available to Ameri-

cans before other places around the world," Dr. Margaret Hamburg, commissioner of the FDA, said at a news conference. The increase in drug ap-

rovals is good news for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, which have failed to produce many new drugs in recent years. New drug approvals peaked in the mid-1990s and have generally declined since then despite increases in research spending. Major drugmakers have steadily cut their research spending since 2008 because of poor productivity, although increased spending by the biotechnology industry has generally made up for this shortfall. For years, FDA officials said little about the declining number of new drug approvals. When some industry analysts blamed government rules for the slowdown, agency officials instead blamed a decline in high-quality industry applications and a general drought in industry labs. Now that approvals are increasing, however, Hamburg is claiming some credit by saying that the agency has lowered some approval standards – particularly for cancer drugs – and speeded up many of its reviews.

Asked about this apparent

contradiction, Hamburg responded, "I think the point we're trying to make is that when high quality science, good applications come before us, we are able to act swiftly and surely." Part of the reason for the agency's new message is that it wants to try to defuse growing calls in Congress – supported by biotechnology and medical device industry groups – to weaken its approval processes. Some conservative economists and commentators have argued recently that Europe is now more supportive of innovation than the United States, pointing to the fact that devices are sometimes approved there earlier. These reports rarely mention that Europe's health care systems are largely government-run, with prices that are generally significantly lower than those in the United States. Hamburg acknowledged that some complex devices are approved first in Europe, but she blamed differing regulatory standards. And she said the device industry did not pay as much in fees to support the FDA as the drug industry did. □

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Yahoo hopes to reach readers with iPad magazine

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SUNNYVALE, California (AP)

— Yahoo has begun to distribute an iPad magazine that illuminates the Internet company's ambitions and the chronic troubles that have thrown its fate into doubt.

The free magazine, called Livestand, has intriguing potential because its software can be customized to pull a deep pool of content from Yahoo's website and other participating publishers to cater to each user's interests.

But the magazine didn't arrive until Wednesday, well behind Yahoo Inc.'s own timetable for the product and 19 months after Apple Inc. began selling the iPad. Since its launch last year, the iPad has thrust tablet computers onto the cutting edge of both technology and media.

Yahoo is counting on Livestand to keep its brand and services relevant as more people embrace the iPad and other mobile devices to consume digital content. Yet Yahoo's delays in seizing such opportunities have been a recurring problem during the past decade. A combination of hubris, bureaucracy and poor decision-making caused Yahoo to react too slowly to threats posed by Google Inc. in Internet search and Facebook in social networking. That has left Yahoo badly weakened in two key markets. Those setbacks are the main reasons Yahoo has been mired in a financial funk during a five-year stretch that saw the company go through three different CEOs who were unable to engineer a turnaround. Yahoo's board has been reviewing whether to

sell all or parts of the company since firing Carol Bartz as CEO nearly two months ago.

If Yahoo remains independent, Livestand may become a key piece of Yahoo's latest comeback attempt. It represents Yahoo's first major step toward building products primarily aimed at mobile devices before adapting them for desktop computers. Besides drawing upon Yahoo's own content, Livestand chooses material from ABC, Forbes magazine, Parenting magazine and an assortment of publications devoted to sports and hobbies. Publishers will be offered a chance to sell subscriptions through Livestand next year.

Livestand "is sort of a re-imagining of what Yahoo can be," Blake Irving, Yahoo's chief product officer, told reporters after he un-



St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire, left, photographs Albert Pujols with an iPad during a celebration of the Cardinals' 11th World Series title, Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

veiled the magazine at the company's headquarters. The magazine's debut came nearly nine months after Yahoo offered its

first preview of Livestand. At that time, Yahoo said it hoped the magazine would be available in iPad's app store by June. □

LinkedIn posts 3Q loss, revenue growth accelerates

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— LinkedIn suffered its first quarterly loss since its initial public offering roused Wall Street a few months ago.

The setback, announced Thursday, wasn't as severe as analysts anticipated. The online professional networking service invested in an expansion aimed at changing the way people find jobs and advance their careers.

LinkedIn Corp. absorbed a loss of \$1.6 million, or 2 cents per share, in the July-September as it invested more money to expand. That contrasted with earn-

ings of \$4 million, or 2 cents per share, at the same time last year.

If not for items unrelated to its ongoing business, LinkedIn said it would have earned 6 cents per share. On that basis, analysts polled by FactSet had expected LinkedIn to break even.

Revenue more than doubled from last year to \$139 million — about \$11 million higher than analysts forecast.

It wasn't enough to lift a stock that has been flying high since LinkedIn's stock market debut nearly six months ago. The company's shares shed \$5, or 5.7 percent, to \$82.50 in Thurs-

day's extended trading. After LinkedIn shares were priced at \$45 in the initial public offering, they quickly doubled.

Investors' rabid response sparked a debate about whether another investment bubble is forming around rapidly growing Internet companies, similar to what happened in the late 1990s when a dot-com boom set the stage for a costly meltdown.

Unlike the Internet startups of the 1990s, LinkedIn had been consistently generating profits.

The increasing spending that triggered the third-quarter loss appeared to yield dividends. □

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AMD cutting 1,400 workers



Advanced Micro Devices Inc. is cutting some 1,400 workers as a weak computer market and manufacturing delays have hurt the world's second-biggest maker of microprocessors for PCs.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, File)

**JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Advanced Micro Devices Inc. is cutting some 1,400 workers as a weak computer market and manu-

facturing delays have hurt the world's second-biggest maker of microprocessors for PCs.

The layoffs announced Thursday amount to about 12 percent of the company's 12,000 workers and are the first big move by AMD's new CEO, Rory Read, who was hired from Lenovo Group in August.

AMD is struggling with an industrywide problem: weak PC sales growth, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, which has been anemic because of the economy and competition from smartphones and tablets.

Although PC shipments continue to grow, the pace is slowing sharply. Shipments of PCs rose in the third quarter but at a more sluggish pace than market research firms IDC and Gartner Inc. expected. That has raised concerns about the strength of the market going into the holiday shopping season. □

Dow jumps 208 after Greek referendum is scrapped



Trader John Panin works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. Stocks closed higher after Greece scrapped a referendum on unpopular budget cuts and U.S. unemployment claims fell to the lowest level in five weeks.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

DAVID K. RANDALL

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 208 points Thursday after Greece scrapped a referendum on unpopular budget cuts and the European Central Bank unexpectedly cut interest rates. It was the second straight day of big gains in the stock market.

The European Central Bank surprised markets by cutting its benchmark interest rate a quarter of a percentage

point, to 1.25 percent. The bank had increased its key rate twice this year, but that was before Mario Draghi took over as head of the bank this week. The announcement sent stocks higher as investors hoped that lowering borrowing costs would help prevent a recession in Europe.

Buying intensified in the early afternoon after Greek Prime Minister George Papandreu abandoned his effort to put package of austerity

measures to a public vote. A "no" vote could have caused chaos in the European financial system by leading to a messy default on Greece's debt.

Investors and other European nations were shocked by Papandreu's announcement Monday that he would call a referendum on a financial rescue package worked out just last week after months of negotiations between Greece and its international lenders.

The Dow lost 573 points the first two days of this week as investors feared that Europe's plan to preserve its currency union was in jeopardy. Markets in the U.S. and Europe have been highly sensitive to headlines out of Europe as leaders there try to avoid a financial calamity. Investors have become fatigued as various efforts to resolve the situation seem to continually run into trouble.

"Today it looks like a deal in Europe is more likely and that's making the market positive, but who knows what people will think tomorrow," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners. □

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A brochure from Macy's that reads "We're hiring for the holidays," is shown at a job fair, in Bellevue, Wash. The number of people applying for unemployment benefits was little changed last week, evidence that the job market isn't getting much better. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Economy picks up; hiring cloudy

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies are more productive, fewer people are seeking unemployment benefits and service companies are adding jobs. Ideally, those trends could signal stronger growth, followed by more hiring. Yet until American consumers consistently spend more, businesses are unlikely to hire enough to drive down unemployment. But more consumers need jobs and raises to keep spending enough to help the economy grow. The paradox has kept the economy from thriving more than two years after the recession officially ended. It's also why economists think the unemployment rate stayed at 9.1 percent for a fourth straight month in October. The government will issue the October jobs report Friday. "We're creating jobs, but it's not enough to ... increase wages measurably," said Ellen Zentner, an economist at Nomura Securities. Thursday data reinforced that message. Weekly applications for unemployment benefits dropped to a seasonally adjusted 397,000, the Labor Department said. □

Starbucks 4Q profit up 29 percent

SARAH SKIDMORE

AP Food Industry Reporter

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Starbucks Corp. reported Thursday that its fiscal fourth-quarter profit jumped nearly 29 percent and beat Wall Street estimates on strong sales around the globe. The coffee company has been a standout among its peers in the tough global economy because consumers have started indulging

CEO said Howard Schultz said Thursday.

"I have never in my career been more excited or more optimistic about where Starbucks is and where we are going as a company, or felt more strongly that we have the tools in the right places to get us there." The company reported after the market closed that it earned \$358.5 million, or 47 cents per share. That's

cent after adjusting for the extra week last year. The results beat expectations of 36 cents per share on revenue of \$2.95 billion, according to FactSet. Starbucks is facing a number of challenges, from the drag of a weak economy on its customers to higher costs it's paying for commodities such as coffee and milk. But strong sales offset these pressures. The company said revenue was bolstered

by new drinks and food products and an expanded loyalty program. Revenue in its stores open at least a year, which is considered a key financial indicator as it strips away the impact of recently opened or closed stores, increased 9 percent during the period. This measure jumped 10 percent in the U.S., where consumers bought up more pumpkin spice lattes and bistro boxes. □



A French supporter of the Occupy London Stock Exchange movement juggles outside a branch of the Starbucks coffee chain. Starbucks Corp. reported Thursday that its fiscal fourth-quarter profit jumped nearly 29 percent and beat Wall Street estimates on strong sales around the globe.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

ing in more small luxuries like lattes. It has also expanded overseas, increased the number of products it offers and upped its presence in grocery stores and other retailers to help drive growth. "Starbucks Coffee Company has never been stronger or better positioned for sustained, profitable growth than it is today," Starbucks

up from \$278.9 million, or 37 cents per share, last year. After adjusting for one-time gains and an extra week in the prior quarter, the company earned 37 cents compared with 32 cents last year.

Revenue rose 7 percent to \$3 billion, with some benefit from foreign exchange rates. That jumped 15 per-

Euro rises up against dollar



NEW YORK (AP) — The euro rose against the dollar Thursday after Greece's prime minister abandoned his plan to put a financial rescue deal to a public vote. The reversal helped allay concerns that Greece could delay or reject a European plan aimed at containing that region's debt crisis. European leaders agreed on the plan last week. A rejection could lead Greece to default on its debt, which would roil financial markets. The euro rose to \$1.3834 late Thursday from \$1.3765 Wednesday. Earlier in the day, the euro fell as low as \$1.3655 after the European Central Bank said it would cut its main interest rate 0.25 percent to 1.25 percent. Kathy Lien, director of research at GFT, said that the euro was able to recover because Greece's decision to scrap the referendum "could put the country back on track to receiving its aid payment." □

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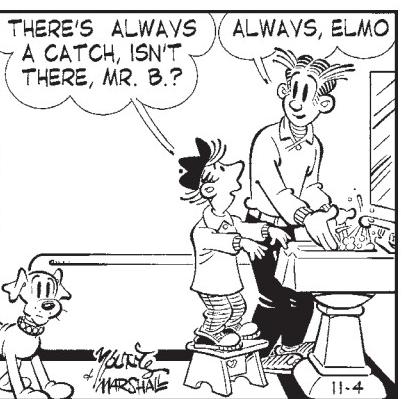
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			4			3		
		5				9		
	6			5		1		
4				5	2		7	
	2			3	4		5	
	6		9	8			5	
5				6		8		
	3				1			
	1		9					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

11/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	4	5	3	8	7	1	9	6
8	9	1	6	5	2	3	4	7
7	6	3	4	1	9	5	2	8
3	2	4	8	6	5	9	7	1
1	8	6	7	9	4	2	5	3
9	5	7	1	2	3	6	8	4
5	3	8	2	4	1	7	6	9
6	7	9	5	3	8	4	1	2
4	1	2	9	7	6	8	3	5

Yesterday's puzzle answer

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Scottish "no"											
4	Painful throbs											
9	Hoodlum											
13	Counts up											
15	Make a frog's noise											
16	Ascend											
17	Painful spot											
18	Isle near Naples											
19	Daredevil — Knievel											
20	Invoice											
22	Flower gardens											
23	Drinks slowly											
24	— the line; obey											
26	Tiny bag of potpourri											
29	In need of ironing											
34	Miscalculated											
35	"__ by any other name..."											
36	"You __ My Sunshine"											
37	Like fine wine											
38	Kate or Jaclyn											
39	Glasgow native											
40	Clean the floor											
41	Stage setting											
42	Napped leather											
43	Moving furtively											
45	Smaller											
46	Wynonna, to Ashley											
47	Daytime serial											
48	Narrow cut											
51	steel; tableware material											
52	Wisk rival											
53	to; because of											
54	Half-pints											
55	At any time											
56	Raised strip											
57	Yellowish-brown wood											
58	Cruel											
59	Look of contempt											
60	Pig's home											
61	...SAID THE GIANT PURPLE HAND GRENADE.											
62	SCOTT AND BOBBY SCOTT											
63	Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews											

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	N	D		S	T	R	U	M	R	A	S
A	W	A	Y		T	R	I	T	O	N	T	O
T	E	R	N		R	O	B	O	T	O	N	U
E	S	C	A	P	E	D	P	E	A	S	A	N
S	O	P	A	D	O	F	A	S	T	T	E	S
O	M	P	R	E	M	U	R	E	Y	I	Y	E
M	W	F	I	R	Y	I	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E
W	I	R	S	T	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
I	R	S	T	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R	S	T	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S	T	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
T	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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3 Blue-pencil
4 Take willingly
5 Studies at the eleventh hour
6 Actress Lange
7 Make money
8 Jumpy
9 Emcee Alex
10 Bee colony
11 up; spent
12 Hardens
14 Reduced sharply, as prices
21 up; bound
25 Dollar bill
26 Stitched joinings
27 Odorless gas found in the air
28 Thin pancake
29 Squeeze liquid from
30 Learn by __; memorize
31 Shoe tie-ups
32 Eat away at
33 Talk out of
35 Word of assent

38 Shears
39 Have an inkling
41 Glide down the slopes
42 Make airtight
44 Toward the rear of a ship
45 No __; not any more

47 Burn
48 Flower stalk
49 Not taped
50 Concept
52 Bed size
53 Assistant
54 Takes to court
55 Tiff
59 Firmament

Today In History

Today is Friday, November 4, the 308th day of 2011. There are 57 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1530 - England's Cardinal Wolsey is arrested for being a traitor.

1547 - England's Parliament repeals the Henrican Act as the first stage in Protestant Reformation.

1879 - The cash register is patented by James and John Ritty of Dayton, Ohio.

1898 - The French evacuate Fashoda (in Sudan) after British protests.

1921 - Japan's Premier Takanishi Hara is assassinated.

1922 - British archaeologist Howard Carter discovers the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt.

1924 - Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming is elected as United States' first woman governor; she serves the remaining term of William B. Ross, her husband who died in office.

1939 - The United States modifies its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

1942 - During World War II, Axis forces retreat from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery. 1944 - Allies announce that Greece has been liberated from German Nazis in World War II.

1952 - Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected U.S. president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson.

1956 - Soviet forces attack Budapest and Hungarian President Imre Nagy takes refuge in the Yugoslav embassy; U.N. General Assembly adopts resolution to send international forces to Middle East.

1964 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is forcibly exiled from Iran. He settles in Iraq. 1975 - United States closes its mission in Angola because of the violent struggle between three rival liberation groups.



Today is Sean "Puffy" Combs' birthday

1976 - Britain proposes Rhodesian independence under black majority rule by March 1, 1978.

1978 - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat refuses to see delegation of Arab groups opposed to Camp David peace talks. 1979 - Militants seize U.S. Embassy in Tehran and take the diplomats hostage for 444 days, demanding the ousted Shah of Iran as ransom. 1984 - About 1,000 Sikhs, battered by Hindus outraged over assassination of India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, take refuge in Sis Ganj shrine. 1990 - Soldiers assault a crowd demonstrating for political opposition in Zaire's capital, Kinshasa. Dozens of people are wounded and hundreds arrested during the

incident.

1991 - Former First Lady Imelda Marcos returns to the Philippines, ending more than five years of exile in the U.S. Her arrival follows the government's decision to endorse her return so that she could be tried on corruption and tax-evasion charges.

1992 - Iran arrests U.S. businessman, Milton Meier, on charges of corruption and espionage. Meier is the first American to be arrested by Iran for spying since 1986.

1993 - Thousands of people who received transfusions demand AIDS tests, terrified they may have been given tainted blood from a company in Germany that was accused of improper testing.

1994 - Serbs attack the town of Bihać, held by Bosnian government troops, with anti-aircraft missiles, damaging 30 to 40 houses.

1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated as he leaves a pro-peace rally in Tel Aviv.

1996 - Tutsi rebels in eastern Congo declare a unilateral cease-fire to allow refugees who want to return to Rwanda to go home.

1997 - The United States announces it has bought 21 MiG-29 jet fighters from former Soviet republics to prevent the advanced planes from ending up in Iran.

1999 - Aaron McKinney, who beat gay college student Matthew Shepard and left him to die on the Wyoming prairie, avoids the death penalty by agreeing to serve life in prison without parole and promising never to appeal his conviction.

2000 - The warring parties in Afghanistan sign a United Nations-sponsored effort to bring peace to the country.

2001 - Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Damascus, Syria, condemn Osama bin Laden, the fugitive who is believed to have masterminded the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

2002 - U.S. forces kill six people, including Qaed Salim Sunian al-Harethi, believed to be a top associate of Osama bin Laden, in Yemen in a missile strike, expanding the war on terror with America's first overt

attack on suspected al-Qaida operatives outside of Afghanistan. 2003 - Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is under investigation by a federal grand jury for its role in employing illegal immigrants. Earlier, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents raided 61 Wal-Mart stores in 21 states, arresting around 250 illegally employed cleaning workers in the largest mass immigration raid in years. □

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Savaneta

584-7000

San Nicolas

584-5000

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911

Emergency

100

Police

115

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582-1108

Fire Dept. II

11141

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Hospital

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582-1234

Police

582-4000

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192879

Why's power hard-wired? Dollars and physics

ADAM GELLER

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With our wireless Internet connections and far-ranging mobile phones, it's easy to forget the hard-wired electricity that powers our homes and gadgets — until the lights go out.

But the freak fall snowstorm that left millions of homes in the Northeast dark this week is delivering a startling reminder of the limits — imposed by both dollars and physics — that keep many Americans reliant on above-ground wires for power, more than a century after Thomas Edison created the modern electrical utility business.

Despite a technological revolution that has transformed the ways people communicate in barely a generation, the mechanics of delivering the electricity that powers all those new devices remains funda-

mentally unchanged.

The outages have ignited anger among some utility

customers, many of whom also lost power during Hurricane Irene in August.

Some are demanding to know why power providers haven't spent the money

or adapted the technology necessary to prevent such problems.

The short answer is that moving electrical wires below ground, where they'd be protected from falling trees, is so expensive that it would likely send consumers' electric bills sharply higher.

And then there's the fact that a new and improved technology for moving power — one that would replace wires — doesn't yet exist.

"If Alexander Graham Bell came back today he wouldn't necessarily recognize the telecommunications system," said Bill Zarakas, of The Brattle Group, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based economic consulting firm specializing in the electric power and utility industries. "But if Thomas Edison came back today he would completely understand our entire grid. It hasn't changed very much from a design standpoint." A big part of that is physics. The signals transmitted to our wireless devices are photons that move readily through air. But the electrons that make up the power supply move much more efficiently through dense substances like metal wires. So far, nobody has figured out a way around that.



In this Aug. 28, 2011 file photo, a resident of Gover Road in Millbury, Mass., watches as crews work to clear a tree that knocked down power lines during Tropical Storm Irene. Despite a technological revolution that has transformed the ways people communicate in barely a generation, the mechanics of delivering the electricity that powers all new devices remains fundamentally unchanged. Associated Press

Associated Press

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An advertisement for "Something Special". The word "Something" is written in a cursive script above "Special" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are two symbols: a male symbol (a circle with a diagonal line) and a female symbol (a circle with a vertical cross). Below the main title, the words "MEN 4 RENT" are displayed in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of "MEN 4 RENT" is the text "Powered by Yip Yum". At the bottom left, the words "Experience male entertainer" are written in a cursive script. Below this, the text "Ready to serve you in a professional way!" is in a smaller, sans-serif font. A large, bold, black, sans-serif phone number "746-4888" is centered at the bottom.

The logo features the word "SKY" in large, bold, black letters on the left. To the right of "SKY", the words "In ARUBA" are written vertically in a smaller, black font. Below "SKY", the words "24 hours Services" and "Massage & Escort" are stacked vertically in a smaller, black font.

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Craig, Bardem star in new Bond thriller 'Skyfall'

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ah, Mr. Bond, we've been waiting for you — and at last 007 is back, several years after his last screen adventure.

Producers announced Thursday that filming has begun on "Skyfall," the delayed 23rd film in the series and Daniel Craig's third outing as the suave British superspy.

Craig, who has brought a hard edge to his portrayal, told reporters that the movie, directed by Sam Mendes and shot in London, Scotland, Turkey and China, would be "Bond

with a capital B."

Craig said he was "tremendously excited" to be stepping back into the role for the first time since 2008's "Quantum of Solace."

Work on the film was postponed, and Bond's future looked uncertain, when studio MGM filed for bankruptcy in 2010. But MGM's new management and EON Productions announced earlier this year that the spy would live to fight another day. Craig will be joined by Spanish star Javier Bardem as Bond's nemesis, while British actors Albert Finney, Ralph Fiennes and Ben Whishaw will play as-yet-

undisclosed roles.

Judi Dench returns as spy chief M and the film introduces two new Bond girls — English actress Naomie Harris as a field agent named Eve and French performer Berenice Marlohe as "a glamorous, enigmatic character" named Severine. "There's lots of surprises," said Mendes, who won an Academy Award for his 1999 film "American Beauty." "I think this has all the elements of a classic Bond movie, including — to quell any rumors — a lot of action," Mendes said.

Some have questioned the choice of Mendes, best



Actors Javier Bardem and Daniel Craig pose for photographs at a photocall for the new James Bond film, at a central London restaurant venue, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011. The film is the 23 in the series, and goes into production on November 7, 2011.

Associated Press

Kal Penn makes smooth return to Hollywood

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kal Penn remembers it like it was yesterday. The last time he was on the set of a commercial was during the previous NBA lockout in 1998. It was a Nike ad starring Samuel L. Jackson, and Penn was supposed to be one of three guys who could play basketball, but Penn didn't actually have any game. Luckily, he wasn't asked to really dribble during the audition.

"The casting director's office was upstairs from this ad agency who complained about the bouncing balls all day," Penn recalled. "By the time I arrived at 4 p.m. to audition, they asked me to just pretend like I was playing ball and talk trash." The gig earned Penn his membership in the Screen Actors Guild. Thirteen years since scoring his SAG card, Penn has morphed into a stoner icon with the "Harold and Kumar" film franchise, starred on the Fox medical drama "House" and worked at the White House. Now, the 34-year-old actor is playing himself in a commercial for Ubisoft's colorful, multiplayer video game "Rayman Origins," starring

limbless hero Rayman, which is set to debut Nov. 15. Penn said he signed up for the "Rayman" ad because the game appealed to his nonviolent sensibilities. He's more into "Mario Bros." and "WarioWare" than "Call of Duty" or "Halo." "It's not some deep philosophical thing; I'm just not very good at them," Penn said over lunch during filming of the "Rayman" spot.

"I just have a really short attention span. I like games that are livelier and have a journey rather than games where all you do is rack up points."

Penn, who is originally from Montclair, New Jersey, returned to Los Angeles about six weeks ago after working for two years as an associate director at the White House's Office of Public Engagement. His role in Washington, D.C., was mostly focused on connecting President Barack Obama with Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, as well as arts groups. "It's been really interesting," said Penn. "D.C. and L.A. are both company towns. ... The structures are very similar, but the towns are completely different."



In this Oct. 11, 2011 photo, actor Kal Penn poses for a photo in Los Angeles. Thirteen years since scoring his SAG card, Penn has morphed into a stoner icon with the "Harold and Kumar" film franchise, starred on the Fox medical drama "House" and worked at the White House.

Associated Press

There's a little bit of culture shock, I guess." Following the suicide of Penn's character on "House" and the announcement that he was hired by the White House in 2009, his manager's phone was "ringing off the hook" with calls from casting agents, but Penn said he fully committed to his job at the White House, only pausing last summer to film "A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas," which opens Friday.

"It hasn't really affected my work as an actor because the worlds are so different," said Penn. □

known for his stage work and emotionally intense dramas like "Revolutionary Road" and "The Road to Perdition."

But he and the producers said they did not plan to take the series in a radically new direction.

Producer Michael G. Wilson said the series had "started down a path" with Craig's first appearance as a gruff, muscular Bond in "Casino Royale" in 2006.

"And we're sticking to that path," Wilson said. "An in-

teresting story, well written, with a great cast and plenty of action."

Mendes said action movies were "a world that's new to me, and I've embraced it."

"The action needs to co-exist with the drama, and that's the balance we've got to strike," he said.

Filming will take place in London's government district of Whitehall, at Pinewood Studios outside the British capital and on location in Istanbul, Shanghai and the Scottish wilderness. □

Police: Bieber sexual tryst may be investigated

GREG RISLING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A woman who claims Justin Bieber fathered her baby in a backstage bathroom could be investigated for having sex with a minor because the singer was 16 at the time.

While no crime has been reported, Los Angeles police Cmdr. Andrew Smith told The Associated Press on Thursday that the department could investigate after Mariah Yeater filed the paternity suit against the teen heartthrob in San Diego Superior Court.

"If it's brought to our attention, of course we'll look into it," Smith said. Yeater had just turned 19

when she says she and Bieber, then 16, had a brief sexual encounter after one of the singer's concerts at Staples Center. She said she gave birth to a boy in July and believes Bieber is the father because there were no other possible men she had sex with at that time.

She is asking a judge for child support and a paternity test. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 15.

Bieber's camp has denied he is the child's father.

It's illegal in California to have sex with someone under age 18. If the other person is not more than three years older, it is a misdemeanor, which carries up to a one-year jail sentence. □



In a Saturday, October 2, 2010 file photo, Soledad O'Brien attends Comedy Central's 'Night Of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Concert For Autism Education' at the Beacon Theatre in New York.

CNN remaking morning lineup with Soledad O'Brien

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN announced on Thursday it is remaking its morning lineup and will bring Soledad O'Brien back as host of a "conversational ensemble" show beginning next year.

O'Brien's program is set to air on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. ET.

Ashleigh Banfield and Zoraida Sambolin will be hosts of a news show that will air from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., the network said. Banfield, most recently at ABC News, played a prominent role at MSNBC a decade ago. Sambolin has worked in local news in Chicago. CNN's "American Morning," where O'Brien worked from 2003-2007, has struggled competitively. Conversational shows "Fox & Friends" on Fox News Channel and "Morning Joe" on MSNBC do better in ratings and buzz, and CNN is often eclipsed by its sister channel HLN with Robin Meade in the morning.

Since former co-hosts John Roberts and Kiran Chetry left "American Morning" in the past year, the network has experimented with other approaches and anchors, adding more business news and a greater story count. □

Twitter changes business of celebrity endorsements

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper Snoop Dogg gave props on Twitter to an ad for the Toyota Sienna minivan. Actress Tori Spelling linked to a website for rental cars. And reality TV star Khloe Kardashian soliloquized about the brand of jeans that accentuates the famous Kardashian derriere.

"Want to know how Old Navy makes your butt look scary good? Ask a Kardashian," the reality TV star wrote, or tweeted, on the social media website. Of course, she capped off the reflection with a smiley face.

These celebs aren't just writing about family cars and fashion choices for the heck of it. Stars can get paid big bucks — sometimes \$10,000 or more per post — to pontificate about clothes, cars and movies in the 140 characters or less allowed per tweet. That's adds up to about \$71 per character.

Twitter, which in its five-year existence has reshaped how people shop, vote and start revolutions, is now changing the business of

celebrity endorsements. Just as Match.com and eHarmony pair up singles for dates, a growing number of startup firms are hooking up companies with stars who get paid to praise products to their thousands

getting longer all the time. The endorsements range from subtle to blatant; the celeb pairings from sensible to downright odd. Singer Ray J urged his 600,000-plus Twitter followers to see the horror movie



In this Aug. 11, 2011 file photo, Snoop Dogg salutes the crowd after winning a BMI award for his song "Gangsta Luv" during the 11th Annual BMI Urban Awards, in Los Angeles. Twitter, which in its 5-year existence has reshaped how people shop, how they vote and even how they start revolutions, is also changing how companies pitch products to you.

Associated Press

— sometimes millions — of Twitter followers.

The list of celebs and the things they hawk is long and

"Saw 3D." Football star Terrell Owens gave a shout-out in front of his more than 1 million followers to a hotel chain giving away sports tickets: "Comfort Inn is hooking up 3 days of it!" Lamar Odom, L.A. Lakers forward, tweeted to his nearly 2 million followers about hip-hop artist and entrepreneur Jay-Z's book "Decoded": "My man Jay-Z ... only rapper to rewrite history without a pen. Until now."

Of course, anything on Twitter is short-lived and reaches only a small, self-selecting audience: Research firm eMarketer estimates that only 11 percent of U.S. adult Internet users are on the micro-blogging site.

And even though some celebs have faithful groups of followers, it can be hard to measure whether their tweets lead people to spend.

Still, celeb tweets can be a way to grab a captive audience at a time when many people are skipping TV commercials with their digital video recorders. And



In this July 13, 2011 file photo, country singer Keith Urban attends a special screening of "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" in New York. Urban will undergo throat surgery later this month.

Associated Press

scheduled to perform at the Country Music Association Awards on Nov. 9.

Urban is nominated for CMA entertainer and male vocalist of the year. □

paying a celeb to tweet is much cheaper than a traditional advertising campaign. Want a tweet from Khloe Kardashian? That will cost about \$8,000, according to prices listed by social media marketer Izea. Looking for a cheaper option? Ray J is about \$2,300.

Companies like Izea, Ad.ly and twtMob usually pair products with celebs through a combination of software algorithms and Hollywood instinct. The companies say they use many metrics to gauge the effectiveness of a paid tweet, such as the number of times it gets reposted by others.

When Ad.ly got Charlie Sheen to tweet for Internships.com in March, the actor was in the midst of getting fired from his sitcom "Two and a Half Men" over accusations of hard partying and drug use.

Within an hour of Sheen's first post, Internships.com got more than 95,000 clicks.

"I'm looking to hire a (hash) winning INTERN with (hash) TigerBlood," tweeted Sheen, who had just recently signed up for Twitter and now has more than 5 million followers.

Dan Smith, vice president of marketing for the website CampusLIVE, which helps advertisers connect with college students, hired Izea to help him get a celebrity to tweet about his company. Izea gave him a short list, which included names like "Jersey Shore" reality TV star JWOWW, comedian Michael Ian Black and rapper Bow Wow.

Smith polled his interns and they picked Lindsay Lohan, the actress most famous for her run-ins with the law.

According to Smith, CampusLIVE paid Lohan about \$3,500 for one tweet:

"These challenges for college kids on (hash)CampusLIVE are SO addicting!"

The post to Lohan's 2.6 million fans drove about 4,500 clicks to the website, Smith said. But he also said he wasn't sure if he'd use her again — not because of her troubles, but because he's already tapped her fan base. □

The birth control solution



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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What if there were a solution to many of the global problems that confront us, from climate change to poverty to civil wars? There is, but it is starved of resources. It's called family planning, and it has been a victim of America's religious wars.

Partly for that reason, the world's population just raced past the 7 billion mark this week, at least according to the fuzzy calculations of U.N. demographers. It took humans hundreds of thousands of years, until the year 1804, to reach the first billion. It took another 123 years to reach 2 billion, in 1927. Since then, we've been passing these milestones like billboards along a highway. The latest billion took just a dozen years.

In 1999, the United Nations' best projection was that the world wouldn't pass 7 billion until 2013, but we reached it two years early. Likewise, in 1999, the U.N. estimated that the world population in 2050 would be 8.9 billion, but now it projects 9.3 billion.

What's the impact of overpopulation? One is that youth bulges in rapidly growing countries like Afghanistan and Yemen make them more prone to conflict and terrorism. Booming populations also contribute to global poverty and make it impossible to protect virgin forests or fend off climate change. Some studies have suggested that a simple way to reduce carbon emissions in the year 2100 is to curb population growth today.

Moreover, we've seen that family planning works. Women in India average 2.6 children, down from six in 1950. As recently as 1965, Mexican women averaged more than seven children, but that has now dropped to 2.2.

But some countries have escaped this demographic revolution. Women in Afghanistan, Chad, Congo, Somalia, East Timor and Uganda all have six or more children each, the U.N. says. In rural Africa, I've come across women who have never heard of birth control. According to estimates from the Guttmacher Institute, a respected research group, 215 million women want to avoid getting pregnant but have no access to contraception.

What's needed isn't just birth-control pills or IUDs. It's also girls' education and women's rights – start-

ing with an end to child marriages – for educated women mostly have fewer children.

"In times past, the biggest barrier to reducing birth rates has been a lack of access to contraceptives," the Population Institute notes in a new report. "Today, the biggest barrier is gender inequality."

The 7 billion population milestone is also a reminder that we need more research for better contraceptives. One breakthrough is an inexpensive vaginal ring that releases hormones, lasts a year and should not require a doctor. Developed by the Population Council, it has completed Phase 3 trials and seems highly effective. It could even contain medication to reduce the risk of an infection with the AIDS virus.

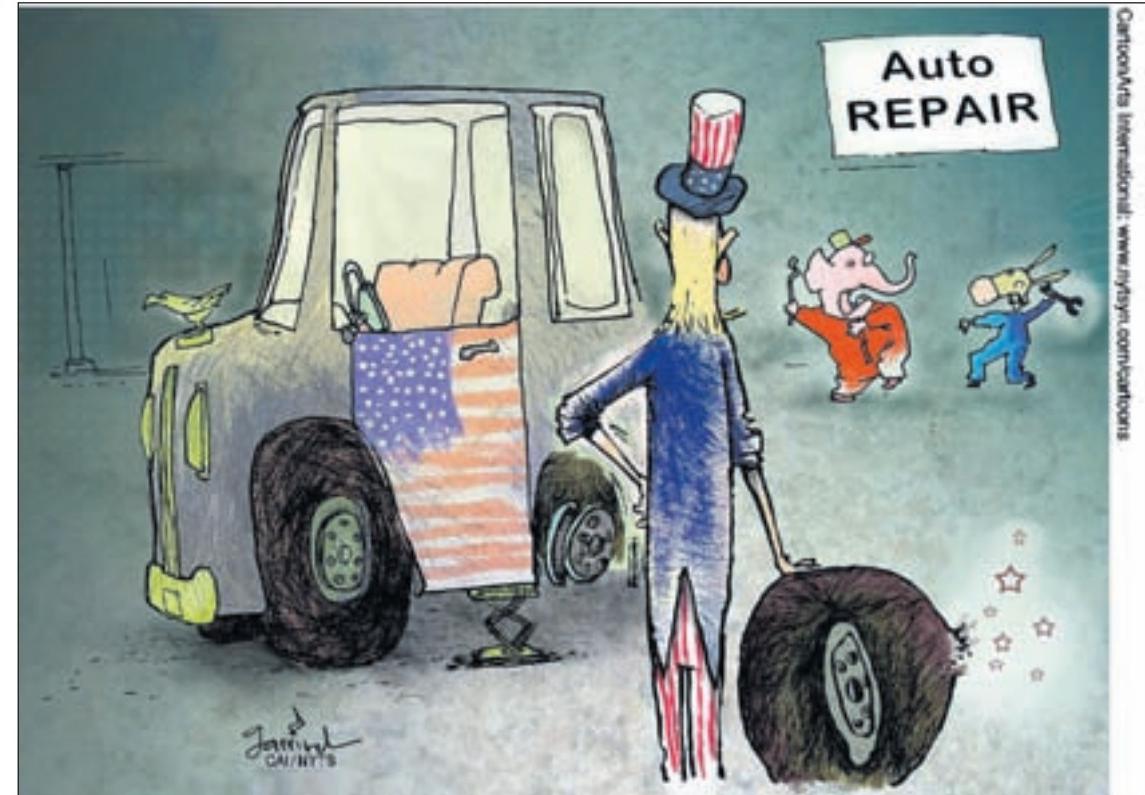
Traditionally, support for birth control was bipartisan. The Roman Catholic hierarchy was opposed, but Republican presidents like Richard Nixon and George H.W. Bush provided strong support. Then family planning became tarnished by overzealous and coercive programs in China and India, and contraception became entangled in America's abortion wars. Many well-meaning religious conservatives turned against it, and funding lagged. The result was, paradoxically, more abortions. When contraception is unavailable, the likely consequence is not less sex, but more pregnancy.

Contraception already prevents 112 million abortions a year, by U.N. estimates. The U.N. Population Fund is a bête noir for conservatives, but its promotion of contraception means that it may have reduced abortions more than any organization in the world.

Republicans are seeking to cut more money from global family planning – which, in poor countries, would mean more abortions and more women dying in childbirth. Conservatives have also sought to slash Title X Family Planning programs within the United States. The Guttmacher Institute estimates that in a year these domestic programs avert 973,000 unintended pregnancies, of which 406,000 would end in abortions. Guttmacher calculates that these family-planning centers in the United States actually save taxpayers roughly \$3.4 billion annually that would otherwise be spent on pregnancies and babies.

Finally, a ray of hope: A group of evangelical Christians, led by Richard Cizik of The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, is drafting a broad statement of support for family planning. It emphasizes that family planning reduces abortion and lives lost in childbirth.

"Family planning is morally laudable in Christian terms because of its contribution to family well-being, women's health, and the prevention of abortion," the draft says. □



CARTOONISTS INTERNATIONAL: WWW.PHYSYCO.COM/TOLES

Day of the armadillo



GAIL COLLINS
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Important News You May Have Missed Department: While you and I have been spending the fall worrying about the secret talks of the congressional supercommittee or trying to determine whether it would be a fun idea to dress as Rick Santorum for Halloween, other even more fascinating news events have been occurring.

I am thinking in particular of a recent story out of Dallas: "Man Allegedly Beat Woman With Frozen Armadillo."

Here's a test. Would you rather hear some details about the congressional supercommittee or more about the armadillo? I thought so.

"According to investigators, the altercation occurred when the suspect was selling the carcass to the victim, who planned to eat the animal," said a report from Lynn Kawano of Fox 4 News. "The pair apparently began arguing over the price of the item when the man twice threw the armadillo at the woman."

Another report said the victim knew her attacker and had, in fact, been storing his armadillo in her freezer. But everyone agrees on the salient armadillo-as-weapon point. And we are left with several questions.

Is frozen armadillo illegal? Or is it

a sort of sidewalk-vendor novelty item, like frozen custard? Are armadillos tasty? Are they endangered?

No to the last one.

"They're not in any short numbers," said Scott Vaca, the assistant chief of wildlife enforcement at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He added that it was illegal to sell a live armadillo, but not a dead one.

This seemed a little strange. I'm sure the armadillo, for one, would prefer the live route. But Vaca was really not interested in debating the matter.

"I'm telling you the law," he said. "It's illegal to sell a living armadillo. By statute. Dead armadillos you can sell parts of them. Make a curio of a little armadillo on his back drinking a bottle of beer."

All right.

I have been working on a project involving Texas, and my friends have been sending me lots of local headlines. (Thanks to Elizabeth Drew for the armadillo tip.) I also got an article titled "Police: Angry Taco Bell Customer Fires at Officers," which contained the memorable exposition: "Brian Tillerson,

a manager at the Taco Bell/KFC restaurant, told The San Antonio Express-News that the man was angry the Beefy Crunch Burrito had gone from 99 cents to \$1.49 each."

These stories have something in common: They're conversation-starters without having any actual point. Sure, you could argue that the Taco Bell incident is an argument for gun control, but in Texas entire communities could be gunned down without anyone in authority suggesting that it might be a good idea to have fewer loaded weapons around. So, really, we're talking about two items from Texas police reports involving edibles. The frozen one of which, I've learned, is either a tasty addi-

tion to chili or roadkill, depending on whom you're asking.

Much of the political news of the last few months has been in the frozen-armadillo category – lively discussion topics devoid of actual meaning. For instance, members of the British Commonwealth voted to change its succession laws to give women equal rights to the throne.

Big deal. Being the monarch of Britain is, at this point, a story without meaning all by itself. Plus, you apparently have to wait until you're about 70 to get a crack at the job. Also in the frozen armadillo category: anything about Herman Cain. Does he want to feed illegal immigrants to alligators or electrocute them? Did he sexually harass women when he was chief of the National Restaurant Association? Did he ever notice that being chief of the National Restaurant Association was just a highfalutin way of saying "lobbyist"?

The one thing we've learned for sure is that Herman Cain's staff has no idea what Herman Cain has been up to. Really, by now they're probably so numb, you could come up to them and say: "Is it true your candidate was once a pirate?" and they'd just promise to look into it.

Sexual harassment is a serious subject. But Herman Cain isn't. Honestly, I tried. I read his book. I watched the debate.

Had many interesting conversations. But I can't go there anymore. I do not believe that under any circumstances the Republicans are going to vote for a motivational speaker who seems to regard running for president of the United States as an expanded book tour. A Herman Cain presidency is much less likely than the chances you'll be thunked by an armored piece of chili meat while shopping for dinner. So, really, I think I'm done. □

Exhibit review:

Maurizio Cattelan at the Guggenheim

ROBERTA SMITH

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK – Is Maurizio Cattelan quitting while he's ahead or before he lags too far behind? The question hangs over that Italian artist's much anticipated 21-year retrospective at the Guggenheim, where, as is widely known by now, all the art is up in the air, too. This unusual show has been described by Cattelan as his swan song. Although only 51, which is young in artist years, he has announced that he is retiring from the job of making art. Perhaps to celebrate, he has turned his retrospective into something of a final blowout artwork, one made of earlier pieces – 128 of them to be precise – and involving some delicate engineering. Cattelan's entire artistic output, excepting two works whose owners declined to lend them, hangs in a gigantic distended mass from cables connected to an aluminum truss near the top of the museum's rotunda. Titled "All," it fills one of the most famous architectural voids in the world with what surely ranks as one of the largest, most complicated, visually muddled mobiles in the history of art. It's an impressive feat, Cattelan's seeming evasion of the stultifying grip of the retrospective by "stringing up" his art – to use the words of Nancy Spector, the Guggenheim curator who organized the show, in its catalog. The effect is initially startling, but ultimately disrespectful and perverse. In some ways it may be just the thing for our attention-deficient times. You can zip up and down the ramp seeing everything and nothing at top speed. Yet its entertaining conceit aside, the show suggests that Cattelan knows what he's about: he's always been uneven and now he is running out of ideas. It may indeed be time for him to quit, and his previous, consistently subversive forays into gallery-

running, exhibition-making and magazine publishing give him plenty of options. The self-abnegating spectacle of "All" is completely in character with Cattelan's well-known ambiva-

ua, the son of a truck driver and a cleaning woman. He worked from an early age; the biggest impression was made by a stint in a local morgue, an experience that Spector cites as

backed into art with little formal training after working briefly as a furniture designer. Viewed from below especially, "All" is a full-bodied catalogue raisonné in the

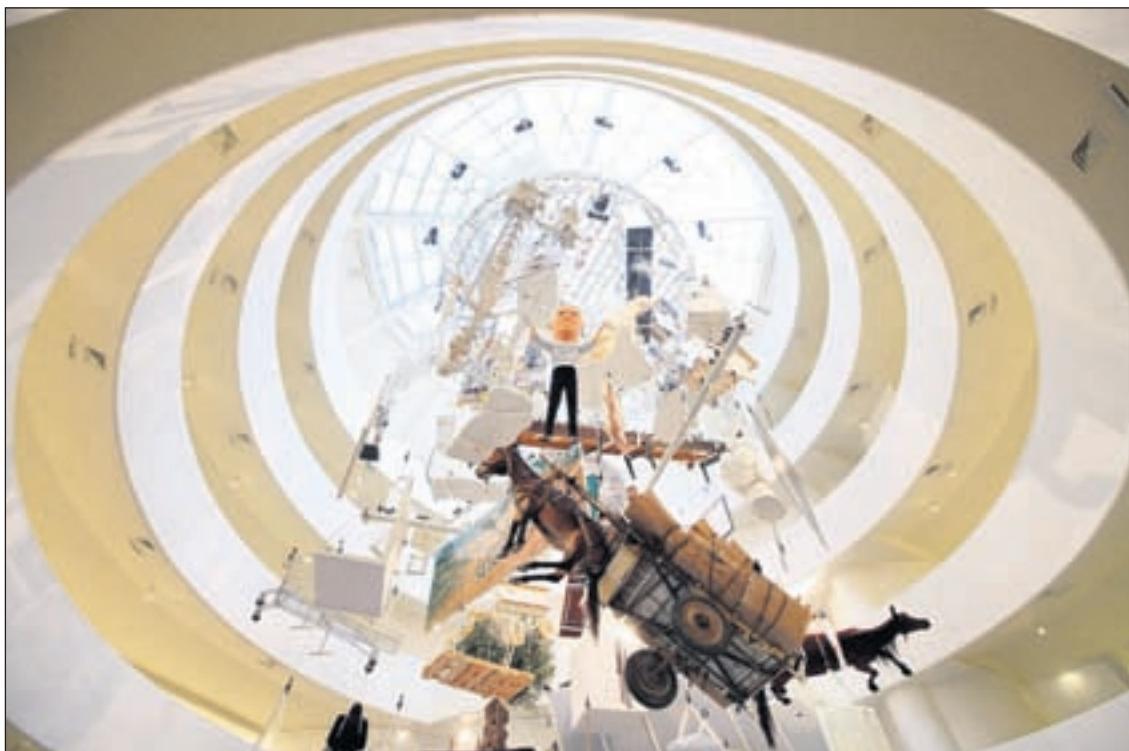
ues: Everything seems to be coming at you all at once. Displayed helter-skelter, for instance, are Conceptual pieces from his early "relational aesthetics" years, when he subverted various social transactions and art-world conventions, yielding works that often make sense only if you know the back story. "Tarzan and Jane," a large color photograph of two people in lion costumes peering through a door, turns out to be an image of art dealers who gamely wore these suits for the duration of Cattelan's show in their gallery in 1993. Equally opaque, if more typically sculptural, is "Lullaby," from 1994, an oversized blue bag full of something that the catalog tells us is rubble from one of the Mafia-related bombings that swept Italy in the mid-1990s.

Another early work is simply a small plastic sign on a cheap brass chain that says "Torno Subito" – basically, "Be Back Soon." When Cattelan failed to come up with satisfactory artwork for an exhibition scheduled with an Italian art dealer in 1989, he purchased the sign and hung it on the door of the gallery, which remained closed for the show's run, adding another footnote to the long history of the empty gallery as art exhibition. The little sign is at the Guggenheim, but is so hard to find that it amounts to another failure. One of the first works by Cattelan that speaks clearly for itself is a large black-and-white photograph of the artist from 1995. Dressed in jeans, a sweater and sneakers, he rolls on his back with his tongue hanging out and his hands and feet raised like paws. The image is comic perfection: a portrait of the artist as an obsequious canine, embarrassingly eager to please. In 1995 he also began his line of taxidermied horses, donkeys, mice and too many cutely curled-up dogs. Dead or alive? You decide. □



The Maurizio Cattelan exhibit at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum features 128 of his previous works, including "Novecento," a stuffed horse artwork, suspended from the museum's rotunda in New York, Nov. 1, 2011. Cattelan is using his retrospective, "Maurizio Cattelan: All," which runs through Jan. 22, as a "swan song" since he recently announced his retirement from making art.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)



The Maurizio Cattelan exhibit at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum features 128 of his previous works, including taxidermied animal and wax figurine artwork, suspended from the museum's rotunda in New York, Nov. 1, 2011. Cattelan is using his retrospective, "Maurizio Cattelan: All," which runs through Jan. 22, as a "swan song" since he recently announced his retirement from making art.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

lence about himself, his talent and his art, and his oft-cited fascination with failure. He grew up in Pad-

a source of the continuing fascination with death most evident in his recurring use of taxidermied animals. He

form of an exploding piñata of Cattelania, frozen in midair. As you ascend the ramp, the chaos contin-